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EUGENE Weekly

August 27, 2026 • Vol. 45 • No. 34

Black Girl from Eugene
Page 3

Inside the nudist confab
Page 13

Healing through tattoos
Page 4

Illustration by McKenzie Young-Roy

COMPASSION IS CARE

From the world's youngest doctor to Lane County's pregnancy problems in the Health Care issue

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contents

AUGUST 27, 2026 - SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

2 Letters
4 News
5 Bricks $ Mortar
6 Health Care
10 Calendar
12 Music Listings
13 Nudists
14 Classifieds
14 Savage Love
15 Astrology

who to blame

PUBLISHER Jody Rolnick
EDITOR Camilla Mortensen
ADVERTISING MANAGER Dave Newman

HOW TO REACH US
CALL 541-484-0519
EDITOR/NEWS TIPS Editor@EugeneWeekly.com
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OPINION

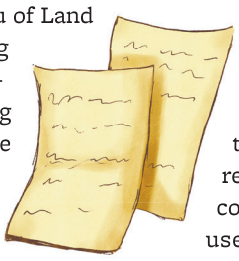
letters

POLITICS AND CLAP-BACKS

Say What on Hoyle?

I am a little astounded to learn that certain environmental groups are not supporting Rep. Val Hoyle for Congress because they say she's not "green" enough. She's not "wild" enough. Unbelievable. They apparently think there is some other process that ignores or bypasses the realities of the current Congress. They conveniently ignore what Hoyle's opponent would do for wilderness, for roadless areas, for public lands.

I have spent a good part of my adult life supporting public lands. It is inconceivable to me that these groups do not seem to recognize our current reality. The current administration and their friends in Congress don't even believe in public lands. They are gutting national monuments. They are slashing National Park, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets and firing staff. Natural resource protection rules and programs are being eliminated. Public lands, like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, are being opened to mining, oil drilling and land speculation. And yes, the sale of public lands is on the agenda.



The only way to protect our public lands, including roadless areas and wilderness, is to elect strong, experienced members of Congress, who can effectively oppose the Republican plans to plunder our public lands. We need Democrats to take control of the House of Representatives. That's it, there is no alternative universe where grassroots efforts to protect public lands can succeed with a congress under the control of the current administration. Our public lands are part of a life-or-death struggle for the control of Congress.

Val Hoyle is uniquely qualified to fight the current administration's plans to gut our public lands and eliminate environmental protections. She supports the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act; both will be eliminated without a change in Congress. She supports wilderness and roadless area protections that would be gutted under the current administration.

Wishful thinking will not protect our public lands. We need an experienced fighter for us in Congress. And that fighter is Val Hoyle. I strongly support Rep. Val Hoyle as a voice in Congress for the protection of our public lands.

Bob Warren
Eugene

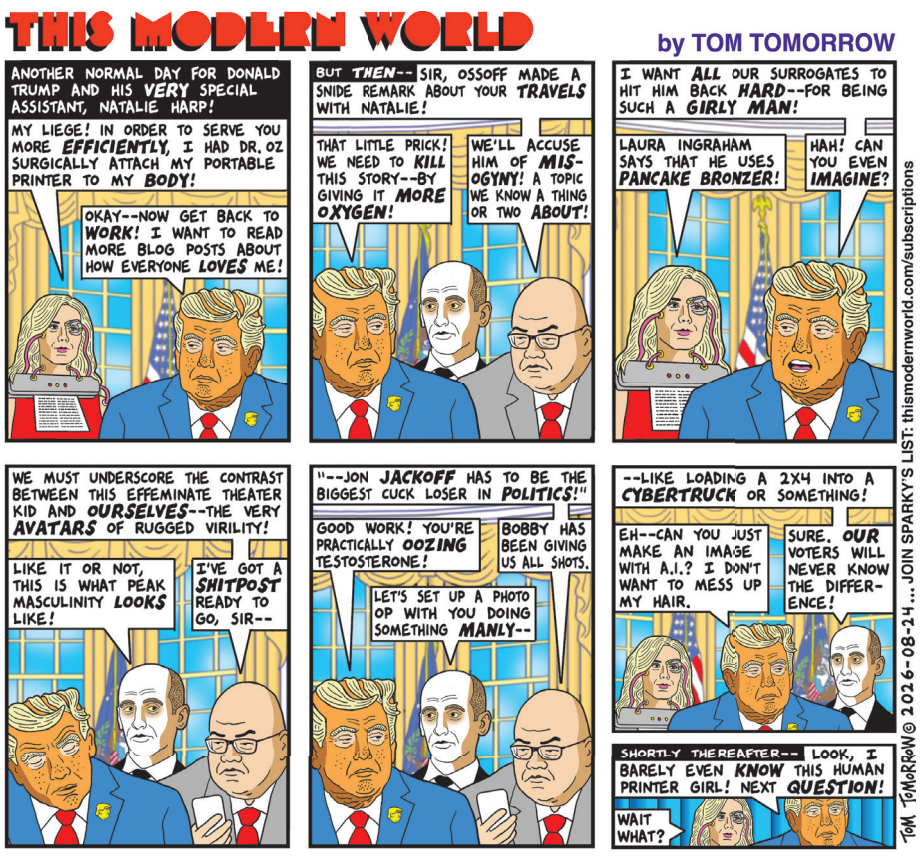
Keep Rural Communities Rural

There are approximately 256 unincorporated communities (UICs) in Oregon. They are mostly without public water, sewers and other infrastructure to support urban level uses. In Lane County, UICs include Fall Creek, London, Deadwood, Walton, Rainbow and 29 more, for a total of 34, more than any other county.

Recently, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) initiated rulemaking (amending administrative rules) with the intent of allowing increased residential, commercial and industrial development in UICs and rezoning farm and forest lands for commercial and "light industrial" uses, including data centers and Amazon warehouses.

The rulemaking is progressing rapidly. Eighteen people, including at least six lobbying organizations, have been appointed to serve on the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) which will review DLCD's proposals and make recommendations to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) by the end of the year.

ORS 183.333 requires that advisory


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
ANOTHER NORMAL DAY FOR DONALD TRUMP AND HIS VERY SPECIAL ASSISTANT, NATALIE HARP!
MY LIEGE! IN ORDER TO SERVE YOU MORE EFFICIENTLY, I HAD DR. OZ SURGICALLY ATTACH MY PORTABLE PRINTER TO MY BODY!
OKAY--NOW GET BACK TO WORK! I WANT TO READ MORE BLOG POSTS ABOUT HOW EVERYONE LOVES ME!
BUT THEN-- SIR, OSSOFF MADE A SNIDE REMARK ABOUT YOUR TRAVELS WITH NATALIE!
THAT LITTLE PRICK! WE NEED TO KILL THIS STORY--BY GIVING IT MORE OXYGEN!
WE'LL ACCUSE HIM OF MISOGYNY! A TOPIC WE KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT!
I WANT ALL OUR SURROGATES TO HIT HIM BACK HARD--FOR BEING SUCH A GIRLY MAN!
LAURA INGRAHAM SAYS THAT HE USES PANCAKE BRONZER!
HAH! CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE?
WE MUST UNDERSCORE THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THIS EFFEMINATE THEATER KID AND OURSELVES--THE VERY AVATARS OF RUGGED VIRILITY!
LIKE IT OR NOT, THIS IS WHAT PEAK MASCULINITY LOOKS LIKE!
I'VE GOT A SHITPOST READY TO GO, SIR--
"--JON JACKOFF HAS TO BE THE BIGGEST CUCK LOSER IN POLITICS!"
GOOD WORK! YOU'RE PRACTICALLY OOZING TESTOSTERONE!
BOBBY HAS BEEN GIVING US ALL SHOTS.
LET'S SET UP A PHOTO OP WITH YOU DOING SOMETHING MANLY--
--LIKE LOADING A 2X4 INTO A CYBERTRUCK OR SOMETHING!
EH--CAN YOU JUST MAKE AN IMAGE WITH A.I.? I DON'T WANT TO MESS UP MY HAIR.
SURE. OUR VOTERS WILL NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!
SHORTLY THEREAFTER--
LOOK, I BARELY EVEN KNOW THIS HUMAN PRINTER GIRL! NEXT QUESTION!
WAIT WHAT?
TOM TOMORROW © 2026-08-24 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

committee membership must represent the interests of "communities likely to be affected by the rule" as well as those of "persons" likely to be affected by the rule." UIC residents were not appointed to the RAC.

If you care about keeping rural Oregon communities rural and are not interested in seeing rural Oregon suburbanized, please send an email to LCDC Chair Allan Lazo: Allan.Lazo@dlcd.oregon.gov. Tell him and the commissioners to stop this inappropriate rulemaking and keep urban development inside cities, where it belongs.

Lauri Segel
LandWatch Lane County
Eugene

Not My Vote

I have tried numerous times to ask Rep. Darin Harbick (Oregon House District 12), Jake Pelroy (running for Lane County commissioner against Heather Buch) Monica DeSpain (running against Rep. Val Hoyle) and Christine Drazen (running for governor) if they support President Donald Trump with his 34 felony convictions and pedophile accusations, ICE, his Middle East war and economic, forestry and energy policies and *no one* has had the integrity to address any of these questions.

I request that all responsible voters demand answers to these critically important questions before ever considering voting for these obstructionists.

Our democracy and Constitution are too important to leave in the hands of those who undermine the basic spirit and intent of our county and Constitution. They will never get my vote. And I hope not yours either.

Craig Patterson
McKenzie Bridge

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows. Limit length to 250 words and include your address and phone number for our files. Deadline: 9 am Monday. Email to Letters@EugeneWeekly.com.

Local & Vocal

BLACK GIRL FROM EUGENE By Ayisha Elliott

THRESHOLD OF HARM

When do we make the change?

The *threshold of harm*. Do you know what that is?

I feel like it's an arbitrary measurement, practiced deeply and subjectively. It depends on your bottom line, your moral compass, your integrity, your ability to empathize. I've mostly seen it practiced as rhetoric.

The threshold of harm is how many people, and to what extent, have to be harmed before anything changes. In civil policy, it's how many have to be killed, on record, before anyone will actually change how things are done. It's a point of action, it is the moment something can no longer remain neutral or minor.

Look at the numbers of any tragedy, and the threshold is wildly conditional. That conditionality is indicative of an entity's values, mission, standard operating procedure, a compass of morality. Citing the impossibility of perfection is usually the first excuse offered for a low threshold. No one being harmed is asking for perfection. How long they have to wait to be counted is the issue.

This conditionality doesn't happen by accident, it's completely manufactured. The word used to create fear and intrigue is necessity.

The layers of harm washed away by the necessity of the project are the biggest lie. The necessity is the lie. There's a conversation about what the community needs, while the main functioning component of that community — the people — isn't respected. Before respect even enters, I'd argue it isn't agreed upon in the first place.

So when we say necessity, necessary for whom? When we're told it helps the lowest common denominator in the room, the lie is compelling, because the masses believe the story is about us, that the people telling it are one of us. They are not.

They aren't appealing to our needs. They're appealing to our vulnerability, then exploiting it. The boardrooms, the think tanks, the councils, etc., are deciding policy in rooms none of us are in; it's ownership deciding what a community needs without asking it. We say we understand it, and still haven't stopped the lie in action. They leave us to fight over the details and say they at least let us know what was coming.

They did not. There was no consent. Our confused answer to a vague question or explanation was all they needed to prove the masses incompetent to decide, so they could decide for us, when the masses were never given the chance to begin with.

When we ask who benefits from that manufactured consent, the pattern isn't abstract.

White people align with those making decisions without the consent of the masses, because that latent control is useful to them and, honestly, it's lazy. Nothing to do when it's systemic. It already works in their favor. Everyone else, the historically and traditionally excluded, is left to make sense of the wreckage. Are we each other's enemies? I don't think so, not by nature. We've been handed a story convincing enough that we perpetuate it even within our own communities, holding each other to standards we don't understand the origins of although we know who started it. Whether that's a direction out or in depends on who you are.

If white people are cast as saviors of the world, not colonizers, then what's happening now? Who will save them, if they stand up against complacent bosses, or the predatory ownership practices padding their retirement a few thousand more? What if they just stay quiet, not adding to the harm? Does that count?

It does not, if you were wondering. Silence bought at someone else's expense is its own necessity. This stands for the Black and Brown bodied people who are quietly doing their best to benefit from the good graces of systemic complacency when you can tap dance like the best of them while keeping one's own position intact. Same lie, smaller room.

The question now, watching the system disintegrate, is whether white people are waking up in numbers or hiding until the rubble of this fallen democracy clears, ready to say they were just trying to survive what they couldn't fix. Who'd be left to clear it, and actively blamed for its demise? The rest of us know who.

Are we asking the same questions, accepting the same "reasoning"? Not all of us can be saved. But those of us who can, how is your community doing? Are you *in* community?

With harm explained away as necessary, where the threshold slides depending on who's being harmed, it's past time we question everything that claims to protect us and squarely rely on each other instead.

Ayisha Elliott is an executive leadership coach and founder of Black Girl From Eugene LLC, BlackGirlfromEugene.substack.com. Through internationally recognized coaching and organizational strategy, she helps leaders close the gap between intention and impact — deconstructing white supremacy culture within workplace culture.

Slant — *Just stop*

BY EW EDITORIAL STAFF

>> Sept. 7 is Labor Day, which in Oregon is the harbinger of fall. **This means that the midterm elections are drawing near.** The election is Nov. 3 and the last day to register to vote is Oct. 13. President Donald Trump is trying to fuck with our vote-by-mail system per an August 24 Supreme Court decision that paves the way for restrictions. However, Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read said at an August 25 press conference that **Oregon will follow its current election laws and protect residents' right to vote by mail.** Election season also means that the editorial team at ***Eugene Weekly*** **is starting our election endorsements process.** Know someone running for office? Reach out to Editor@EugeneWeekly.com. Longtime **Lane County administrator, Steve Mokrohisky,** is leaving in 2027. He's been a steady hand at the county, so let's make sure we elect a good commissioner in the contested East Lane race to help choose the next administrator.

>> We are dismayed to report that the *Highway 58 Herald,* which serves the rural Hwy 58 corridor, with a focus on Oakridge, will close its doors Sept. 15 unless someone steps up with an idea for the nonprofit paper's future. You can read our story about it on EugeneWeekly.com, and find *The Herald*'s fundraiser on GoFundMe.com. Rural areas desperately need news coverage. And, yes, the *Weekly* would absolutely cover Oakridge, but we, too, need the financial means to do it. Ideas? Reach out to *The Herald* at General@highway58herald.org or to *Eugene Weekly* Editor Camilla Mortensen, who is on the board of directors, at Editor@EugeneWeekly.com. We know how it feels to be a news source in danger of disappearing and will forever be grateful to our supporters!

>> We also know how it feels to be embezzled, and you can read our breaking news story online this week about the $1.5 million an employee allegedly embezzled from McKenzie Watershed Alliance. Embezzlement happens more often that you might think, and the feelings of betrayal go deep. **If you want something more bright,** check out photographer Todd Cooper's shots of the Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue show at the Cuthbert Amphitheater August 20. Love the photos? Love the Cuthbert? Weirdly enough there are Best of Eugene Categories for photogs and venues at Vote.EugeneWeekly.com. Fun fact: We have been doing a readers poll for 30 years! Another fun fact, **we debuted our red boxes in spring 1995!**

>> The Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition says there were 21 detentions reported to the PIRC hotline August 14 to 20 in nine counties including Lane and Marion counties and 61 detentions reported to PIRC in August. Just what does that cost? It costs a lot emotionally to the families and it costs communities beloved members. The University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center in conjunction with the Economic Policy Institute and Shared Futures has developed a **"cost of deportations" calculator,** which says that in Oregon the almost $3 million dollars, or $1,859 per taxpayer, that has been spent on on mass deportations, could fund 9,527 school teachers, 9,778 firefighters, 131,249 people on Medicaid and so on. Find the calculator at EPI.org/deportation-calculator.

>> Can we just note we are really sad that Dolly Parton died August 25? We are all gonna sing, "Eugene, Oregon, I'll remember you for the rest of my life/ I won't forget how good you were to me." From just being Dolly, to her Imagination Library that sends books to children from birth to age five in Eugene and across the country, we lost a treasure.

MICHELLE VARGA TATTOOS A NIPPLE ON A CLIENT.
Photo by Michelle Varga

More Than Skin Deep

Through hyperrealistic medical tattooing, a cancer survivor helps patients reclaim their bodies after illness, injury and trauma **BY LILY REESE**

Michelle Varga handed her a mirror.

Months earlier, breast cancer had taken both of Meridith Pyle's breasts, her nipples and, she says, much of the woman she recognized in her reflection. Now, sitting inside the nonprofit where Varga provides medical tattooing, Varga Medical Art Inc., Pyle watched as hyperrealistic areolas emerged over the scar tissue left behind by a double mastectomy.

"I just wanted to feel like me again," Pyle says.

Looking into the mirror, she cried.

"Not because it hurt," Pyle says. "But because she gave me a sense of womanhood again."

For more than a decade, Varga has helped people reclaim parts of themselves altered by illness, injury and trauma. Combining her backgrounds as a nurse and tattoo artist, she restores areolas after mastectomies, and camouflages scars left by cleft lip repairs, self-harm and gender-affirming surgeries.

The work, done at Varga's Body Mind Soul Studios, is deeply personal. A six-time cancer survivor herself, Varga understands that healing rarely ends when treatment does. Her own experiences with illness shaped both the technical precision of her work and the compassion she brings to every appointment.

"My trauma validates their trauma," she says. In 2003, the same year her grandmother died from breast cancer, Varga was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Years of surgeries, radiation and recurring diagnoses followed, giving her firsthand knowledge of how illness can permanently change the way someone sees their own body.

"I remember just crying all the time," she says. "Every time you go in for another diagnostic, the anxiety you have, when you're sitting there in your gown, waiting to be scanned, is something that you cannot put into words."

After a tumultuous marriage and years of nursing burnout, Varga left the profession in 2007. Around that same time, she met her now-husband, Eain Varga, a tattoo artist. While she continued undergoing cancer treatments, the couple kept returning to the same question: How could they combine their artistic talents with Varga's medical background to help people heal?

In 2013, Varga was diagnosed with cancer again, completing treatment that March. As her health slowly improved and the couple welcomed their daughter, that question evolved into a shared vision.

Eain encouraged her to pursue tattooing professionally. What began as a blend of artistic talent and clinical knowledge gradually evolved.

Varga apprenticed under breast cancer survivor and tattoo artist Judith Culp Pearson at Eugene's Esthetics NW Services and continues studying with medical tattoo educator Stacie Rae, believing that technical skill alone isn't enough. "It's not just laying ink into skin," Varga says. "You're actually helping somebody heal."

Together, Michelle and Eain built Body Mind Soul Studios in 2021 around the belief that survivors deserve care that helps restore both their bodies and their confidence, regardless of financial means.

"Together we realized we could create something that helped survivors heal both physically and emotionally," Varga says. "Our different backgrounds became our strength."

Every appointment begins long before the tattoo machine turns on.

Varga reviews medical records, speaks with physicians and studies how each person's skin has healed after surgery or radiation. She discusses expectations, color matching and placement. Sometimes she sends patients home with temporary areola tattoos so they can decide what feels most like themselves before committing to permanent pigment.

But once the needles touch the skin, the conversation usually changes. "Their story comes out," Varga says. "It's a cathartic release."

Patients often talk about cancer, surgeries, grief and fear, sharing stories they often haven't shared with anyone else. For many, the appointment becomes as much about emotional healing as physical restoration.

Pyle knows that feeling well.

After being diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, she spent months navigating a maze of oncologists, surgeons and insurance approvals before finally undergoing a double mastectomy. Initially, doctors believed they could preserve her nipples.

Then came another conversation. To ensure the best chance of removing all of the cancer, they would have to go.

"That crushed me," Pyle says.

She remembers looking in the mirror after surgery and seeing only scars. "You feel like you've lost every piece of your womanhood," she says. "I'm the one who still has to look at myself in the mirror."

Pyle's doctor, Garth Meldrum, recommended she connect with Varga after referring several of his patients to her. At first, Pyle felt embarrassed that she couldn't afford the procedure. Cancer had already placed an enormous financial burden on her, and her insurance would not cover medical tattooing.

When Varga received Pyle's call, she recognized a story she had heard many times before.

As she and Eain worked more with breast cancer survivors, another obstacle became impossible to ignore. Insurance companies frequently classified nipple tattooing as cosmetic, even after mastectomy reconstruction, leaving many patients unable to afford the procedure.

Rather than wait for policy to change, Michelle and Eain founded the nonprofit Varga Medical Art in 2023 to help cover the cost of treatment for survivors whose insurance claims are often denied. "I care about the human," she says. "I don't care about the bureaucrats."

Today, Pyle still has more tattoo sessions ahead. She has shown only a handful of people the results. Every one of them thought they were looking at the same body she had before cancer. When she catches her reflection now, she no longer sees what was taken away. She sees herself.

"She gave me my life back," Pyle says.

This October, Pyle will help organize Varga Medical Art's third annual Pink Ribbon Gala, raising money so other survivors can receive the same care she once thought she could never afford. "I want to help her as much as I can," Pyle says. "Because she literally saved my life."

It's the kind of full circle Varga hopes every patient finds: leaving not only with restored skin, but with the confidence to help someone else heal.

Varga Medical Art and Body Mind Soul Studios are located at 1720 West 18th Avenue, and more information can be found at VargaMedicalArt.org and BodyMindSoulStudios.com.

ACTIVIST ALERT PROTESTS, ACTIVISM AND MORE AROUND LANE COUNTY

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

"As for the future, your task is not to foresee it, but to enable it." — *Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

>> Eugene Safe and Fair Community Health Care Training, Join Minneapolis health care workers to learn about immigrant rights and best practices keeping patients, colleagues and community safe, 7 pm to 9 pm Thursday, August 27. Eugene location shared after registration, Linktr.ee/loveandhealingtour.

>> Money for Housing, Healthcare and Infrastructure Not War, noon Saturday August 29, Springfield City Hall, Lane County Labor and Eugene Springfield Solidarity Network summer rally series.

>> Common Cause Election Protection Training, 6 pm to 7:30 pm, Thursday, Sept. 10, Unitarian Universalist Church 1685 West 13th Avenue, Eugene. Co-sponsors Indivisible Eugene Springfield, NAACP Eugene Springfield, 350 Eugene, Lane County United for Immigrant Justice Network, League of Women Voters of Lane County, SURJ Showing Up for Racial Justice. Mobilize.us.

>> Tell City Council No AI Data Centers in Eugene, 7:15 pm to 10 pm, Monday, Sept. 14, Eugene City Hall.

Go to EugeneWeekly.com for a full list of ongoing events. Email Editor@EugeneWeekly.com with "Activist Alert" in the subject line to add protests to this listing, and subscribe to the Activist Alert newsletter at EugeneWeekly.com/newsletter to get this information in your inbox on Wednesdays!

BY CHRISTIAN WIHTOL

Coming Up Empty

Big industrial buildings left vacant as companies close

THE SOON-TO-BE VACATED TRUE VALUE WAREHOUSE IN SPRINGFIELD.
Photo by Christian Wihtol

An eerie quiet may descend on some Eugene-Springfield industrial areas as more manufacturers close up shop and move jobs away.

The latest closures — Bowtech in Eugene, Pacific Headwear in Coburg and True Value in Springfield — are wrenching for the nearly 200 workers in the process of being laid off. And they further glut a market already laden with big empty industrial buildings, some constructed by optimistic investors in the economic euphoria of the 1990s-2000s.

The soon-to-be-vacated True Value regional hardware products distribution center on Olympic Street is a behemoth. At 520,000 square feet, it is the second-largest industrial building in Lane County. The top honor goes to the million-square-foot former Hynix factory in west Eugene, which remains largely unused nearly 20 years after Hynix exited the city.

Whether anyone steps in to repurpose these buildings — and bring new jobs — is a pressing question.

The latest job losses continue a decades-long erosion of manufacturing, warehousing and similar employment in the county.

Lane County's manufacturing sector is down by nearly 1,000 jobs from just before the 2020 onset of COVID, and down by 7,000 since the sector's heyday in 2006, state data show.

Because of their size and employee mix, Bowtech, Pacific Headwear and True Value all had to file state-mandated mass-layoff Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications. "Most companies are not required to file a WARN notice, so there may be (layoffs) we are missing," says Henry Fields, the state's regional economist for Lane County.

But, he adds, compared to the losses in the 2008 recession, the current cuts are "quite muted."

FAST WINS

The growing roster of empty industrial properties has an upside: Businesses scouting Lane County have plenty to choose from.

"These buildings are the region's fastest potential wins," says Matt Sayre, executive director of Collaborative Economic Development Oregon, the county's main business recruitment agency.

A vacant building like the True Value property "with utilities already in the ground, is faster and cheaper to occupy than any greenfield site," he says. "Much of our remaining undeveloped industrial land needs years of infrastructure and permitting work before it can compete" to attract businesses, he says.

Here's a look at the new additions to the vacancy list:

• The True Value building is a single-story 30-foot-high concrete affair nearly a quarter of a mile long with a score of loading docks facing Olympic. Built in 1974, the property has long been owned by New York real estate investment giant W.P. Carey Inc. It's not yet listed for sale or lease. W.P. Carey didn't respond to messages from *Eugene Weekly*.

• In coming months Archery products maker Bowtech is shedding 43 workers and vacating its 87,000-square-foot long-time home on Highway 99 near the Eugene Airport. The property, owned by an investor, has recently been put up for sale at $7.7 million.

• Hat maker Pacific Headwear eliminated 83 local jobs earlier this summer and vacated its 79,000-square-foot building in the Coburg industrial park. The 36-year-old building is owned by a Eugene investment group, property records indicate. Asking price: $9.1 million.

The Bowtech and Pacific Headwear jobs are being moved out of state by parent companies. The True Value work is being shifted by parent company Do It Best to a Woodburn warehouse.

Other big vacant business properties already for sale include the former Royal Caribbean call center in Springfield and the former HMT computer hard-drive disc factory in west Eugene. Both have been vacant for years. Also on the market: high-tech company Datalogic's half-vacant manufacturing and research complex in west Eugene.

ELECTRIC DEMAND

Plenty of job-creating businesses are interested in Lane County, Sayre says, but adds they want buildings that exactly suit their needs.

In the past 18 months, "advanced manufacturers, food producers and technology companies" have all scrutinized sites in the county, but they typically want much more electrical capacity than is offered at most available Lane County properties, Sayre says. Each inquiring company has typically wanted up to about 20 megawatts, he says. That's enough to power 10,000 to 20,000 homes.

"Very few of our sites can serve that kind of load today, and that delta between what prospects need and what we can deliver is the region's real recruitment ceiling."

RE-USING AN RV FACTORY

A drawback to the True Value property is its sheer size, several real estate brokers say. "That square footage is really, really large," notes one broker.

The property's strength is its location near a Highway 126 interchange. It might be carved up and leased to multiple tenants, the broker says.

The Lane County assessor puts a market value of $26 million on the building. The annual property tax bill is $395,000.

Some industrial properties now for sale have already gone through reincarnations. The Coburg building vacated by Pacific Headwear is part of a five-building complex originally built by RV maker Monaco Coach Corp. in the 1990s. Monaco went bankrupt in 2009. Entrepreneur Steve Lee bought the complex in 2012, split it into individual parcels and sold off most of the pieces to industrial users. He still owns one empty former Monaco building: A 32,000-square-foot former spray-painting facility. That's for sale at $5.3 million, according to Eugene broker Evans Elder Brown & Seubert.

Bricks $ Mortar is a column anchored by Christian Wihtol, who worked as an editor and writer at The Register-Guard *in Eugene 1990-2018, much of the time focused on real estate, economic development and business. Reach him at Christian@EugeneWeekly.com.*

82086 LOST CREEK RD
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Here is the one level home on acreage that you have been waiting for! Huge shop and 6 stall barn. 4 bedroom home. Fenced and gated. Garden area, fruit trees, potting shed/art studio/craft outbuilding with power. This solid 2880 sqft home is ready for your updates and is beautifully situated on 7.51 usable acres. Home boasts a large country kitchen, spacious dining area, huge bonus room/family room, & picture windows with lovely property views.
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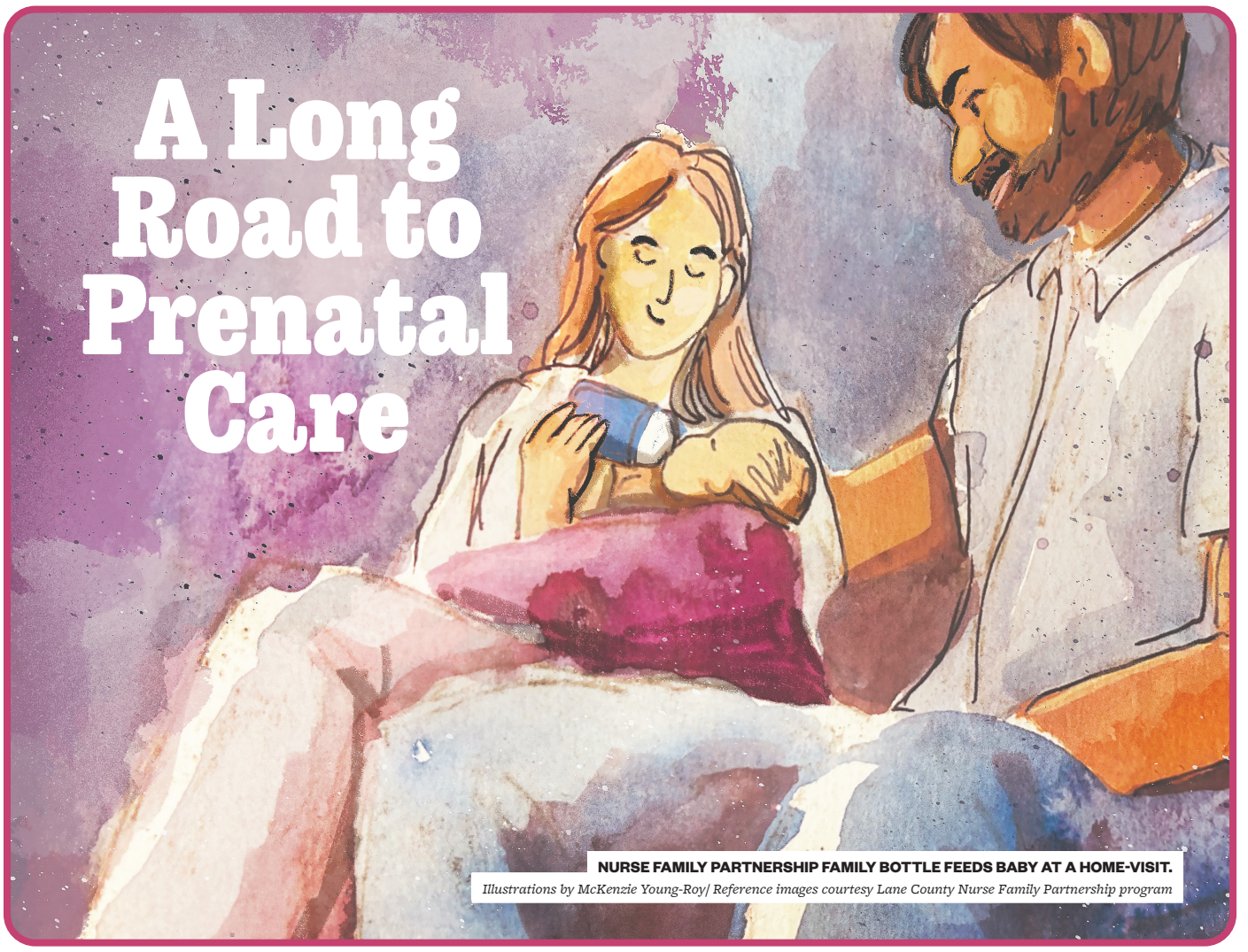


A Long Road to Prenatal Care

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP FAMILY BOTTLE FEEDS BABY AT A HOME-VISIT.
Illustrations by McKenzie Young-Roy/ Reference images courtesy Lane County Nurse Family Partnership program

In an area where mood disorders and substance abuse are higher than national averages, Lane County's Nurse Family Partnership program meets families where they live

BY AISHIKI NAG

For some pregnant people in Lane County, getting prenatal care is more than making an appointment. It can mean finding a way to travel over 30 miles to the nearest provider, taking time away from work and family, rationing food to afford an appointment or deciding whether the cost of transportation is worth the trip to seek care.

Although Oregon in general has a lower mortality and morbidity rate for infants and expecting parents compared to the national rates, some trends remain high, including pre-term births, and are a concern for health care providers. In Lane County, hypertension, gestational diabetes, mood disorders and kidney problems in pregnant people are common. Substance use and congenital syphilis are higher than national and state averages.

In 2012, Lane County started the Nurse-Family Partnership program, which connects registered nurses with expecting families and provides home visits. The current program has 10 registered nurses and serves around 150 new families. NFP has been successful in addressing these health problems around the county.

"We're one of the largest sites in the nation," says Alisha Pierzina, Lane County Family & Child Health nursing supervisor. "The Nurse-Family Partnership pairs a registered nurse with a pregnant person early in their pregnancy. Families have to enroll before the end of their second trimester and they can work with the nurse until the baby turns two."

The service covers all of Lane County and provides bilingual staff to serve Spanish-speaking clients. Lane County Public Health shows that in this program, 93.2 percent of babies were born full term, 99 percent of parents initiated breastfeeding and 90 percent of babies received all immunizations by age 24 months.

Since the program is billed through Medicaid and other similar services, "That is one of the programs that is in jeopardy with Medicaid cuts, because at least in Lane County — and this isn't true everywhere — one of the qualifying factors to enroll in our family partnership is you have to be eligible for Oregon Health Plan," Pierzina says.

NFP also sends nurses to provide care after childbirth as well. People often won't see their primary care doctor "until six weeks after birth," says Rowen Nido, Lane County senior community health analyst. "And that's a really critical time, especially for perinatal mortality, where people can still experience postpartum preeclampsia. They can have infections, and we've caught all of those things in in-home visits." Preeclampsia involves high blood pressure and often problems with the kidneys or liver.

NFP allows medical professionals to reach pregnant people in rural parts of Lane County who may have limited transportation options. "We go to Florence, Oakridge, Cottage Grove, Junction City and everywhere in between," Pierzina says.

MARCH OF DIMES

A 2025 report by March of Dimes, a national organization tracking maternal and newborn health, found that 3,466 Oregon babies were born preterm in 2024, averaging at 8.9 percent of pregnancies, earning Oregon a "B" grade. Oregon currently ranks third among 52 jurisdictions (all states, Washington DC and Puerto Rico were included) for preterm birth, below the U.S. rate of 10.4 percent.

However, the rate of pre-term births has stark disparities linked to race and ethnicity in Oregon, with Native American people having pre-term births at 13.7 percent, Pacific Islanders at 13.4 percent, African Americans at 10.2 percent and Hispanic people at 9.2 percent. This pattern is also seen through insurance status, with pregnant people on Medicaid having a 9.8 percent chance of pre-term births, which is notably higher than private insurance which is 8.2 percent.

"Within the last 10 years, I would say, we are seeing that it continues to worsen in Lane County and what that means is that we're seeing closures in access to care," says Justine McClure, March of Dimes executive director in Washington and Oregon.

Oregon also ranks 11th among the 52 jurisdictions for infant deaths, with 4.6 fatalities per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate for Black infants is 1.8 times the state average. The leading causes of infant fatalities are birth defects, sudden unexpected infant death, low birth weight

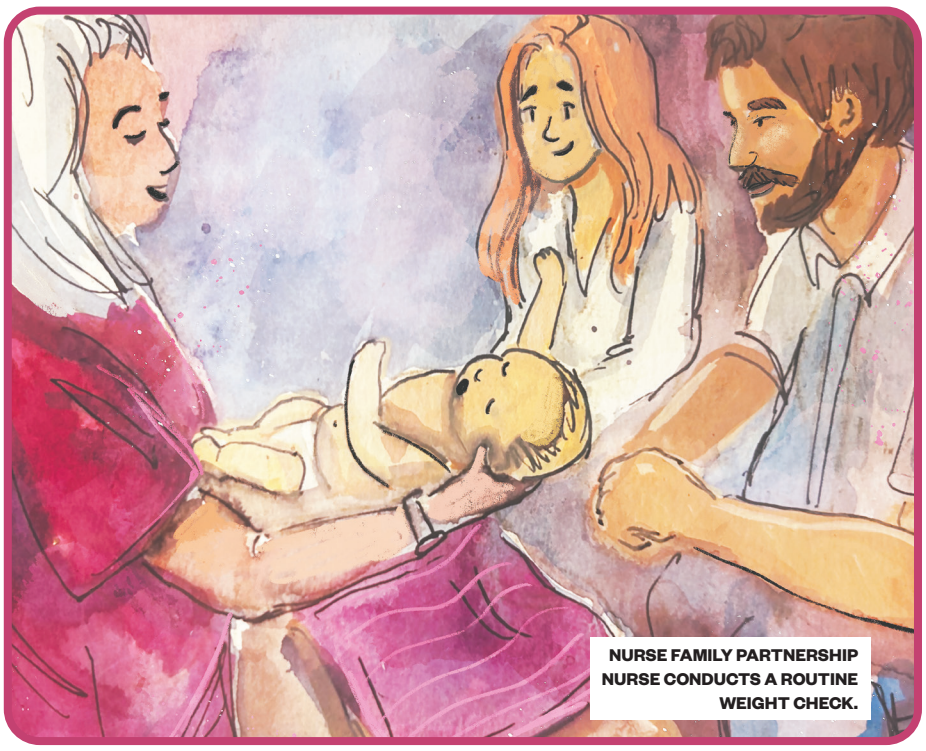
and maternal complications.

MOD identifies five health-care desert counties — areas with inaccessible care — in Oregon: Wheeler, Sherman, Morrow, Gilliam and Malheur counties.

Nurse-Family Partnership programs exist in nine out of Oregon's 36 counties, providing health care in rural areas, and taking the burden of transportation off low income families. Since the program first opened in 1999, the national NFP has served 7,312 families in Oregon.

Proximity to affordable health care remains crucial for pregnant people, with an estimated one in three pregnancies occurring in a maternal health care desert.

McClure says the biggest challenges between rural and urban pregnancies is health care access. "Receiving care from a specialized physician, such as an OB-GYN, a midwife or someone within the community that is focused on the health of moms and babies is important," McClure says.



NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP NURSE CONDUCTS A ROUTINE WEIGHT CHECK.

COMPLICATIONS AND CARE IN LANE COUNTY

Common complications NFP nurses have seen in Lane County are gestational diabetes and kidney issues. "We also see different mental health conditions being exacerbated in pregnancy. Mood disorders are a high risk during pregnancy and postpartum," Pierzina says.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, in pregnant people in Lane County is notably higher than the national average, with 13.1 percent of live births reporting some mention of hypertension.

Substance use is another significant health complication "particularly in this community that is not talked about," Nido says. "There's a broad misconception that cannabis is natural so it's fine to take during pregnancy, but it impacts the baby and it also impacts the pregnant person's mental state, their ability to sleep and their ability to deal with stress."

Pierzina says that pregnant people who use drugs during pregnancies have more frequent instances of postpartum psychosis. There are also pregnant people who use methamphetamine and similar substances that are hard to stop using.

"Lane County has a much higher than average rate of congenital syphilis, which is a sexually transmitted infection that the pregnant person can get while they are pregnant, that can then pass to the baby and cause everything from malformation to fetal death," Nido says. She says Lane County's rates of congenital syphilis are five times the national average.

Nido describes congenital syphilis to be syndemic with substance use, homelessness and other social factors.

Nicotine use among pregnant people is another drug that has exceeded the state and national average. When pregnant people use nicotine it can pass the placental barriers and cause long-term effects, such as an increase in behavioral diagnoses such as ADHD. Babies exposed to inhalants — tobacco, cannabis or meth — have a near 10 times higher increase in sudden infant death.

"People have not necessarily quit, but there has been a significant reduction," Nido says. "There was a 47 percent reduction [in tobacco usage] and tobacco especially is one of the key metrics that NFP tracks and provides a lot of internal education."

As for rural health impacts, Pierzina, who served in the NFP for 12 years, observes more nutrition and isolation related complications for rural families.

"Services aren't typically traveling to the rural parts of the county, and so when your finances are stretched, you don't have a car of your own, you can't go anywhere," Pierzina says.

THE THREATS

The 2025 budget reconciliation bill, known as H.R. 1, Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill," has posed significant new challenges to qualify for Medicaid. The bill notably slashed roughly $911 billion in federal funding for Medicaid over 10 years, and the Congressional Budget Office estimates that these cuts will cause at least 7.5 to 10 million people to lose Medicaid coverage, shifting the financial burden onto states.

"It definitely impacts our clients," Pierzina says. "I think in Oregon, they aren't feeling it quite as much yet because Oregon has said 'No we're protecting all of the things that come with Medicaid.'"

She adds, "I think just what people are facing day in and day out — their resiliency is amazing, You hear their histories, where they had abuse and neglect and these terrible stories that you would hope is a one-off story but is actually the common theme. Just being able to come alongside and be present with these families, it has a profound impact."

Learn more about March of Dimes advocacy efforts and research at MarchOfDimes.org, and the Nursing Family Partnership program at LaneCountyOr.gov.

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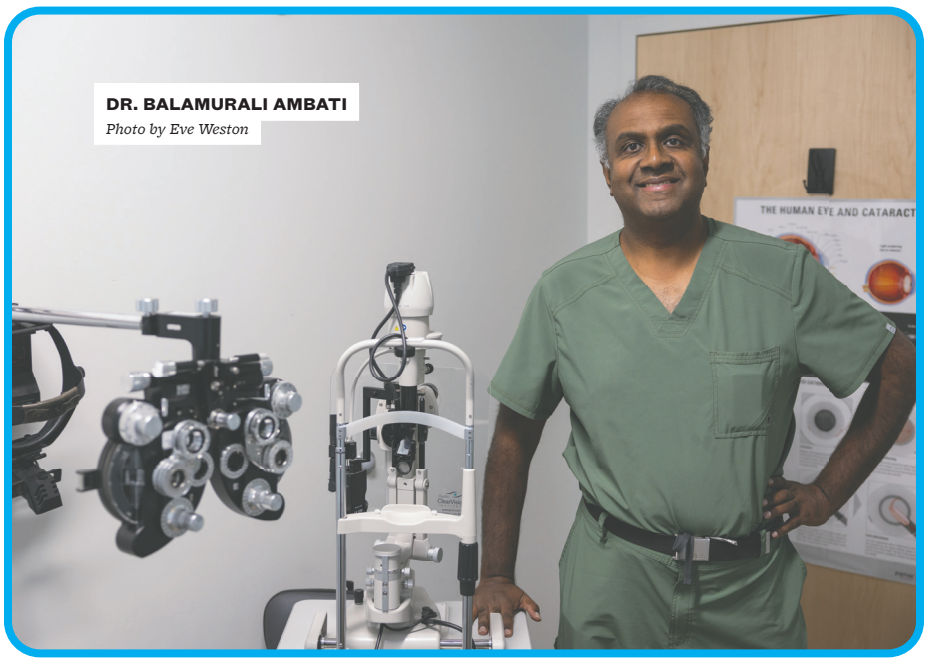
Prodigy Doctor

World's youngest doctor has a practice in Eugene

BY EVE WESTON



DR. BALAMURALI AMBATI
Photo by Eve Weston

When Dr. Balamurali Ambati was four years old, he stood up on a chair in the kitchen to see what his mom was cooking. To get a better look, he tried to tilt the pot toward him — inadvertently spilling scalding hot water and rice onto his legs. He was taken to the hospital, where he stayed for three months. It was during this hospital visit that Ambati says he discovered his passion for helping others, which eventually led him to medicine.

Just 13 years later, at age 17, he would become a Guinness World Record holder for being the world's youngest doctor. He would also go on to make important research discoveries, donate a kidney to a stranger and move to Eugene.

Ambati, now 49, entered first grade at age six like anyone else. But he says it only took him a few weeks to be moved up into the second. He kept up this pattern, skipping grades rapidly. "Basically every year I did two years of school," he says. In 1989 he graduated from high school at age 11 in Baltimore, Maryland. During the same year, he co-authored a research book on HIV/AIDS titled *AIDS: The True Story – A Comprehensive Guide*.

Ambati and his brother, who is seven years older than him, were inspired to write the book after hearing the story of children in Arcadia, Florida, who had contracted HIV from blood transfusions and were subsequently ostracized from their community. "There was a lot of fear and misinformation about HIV and AIDS, so we wanted to educate people," Ambati says. "So we wrote a book intended for high school and college students."

Since Ambati completed college-level coursework during his time in high school, he was able to complete an undergraduate degree in biology at New York University by age 13. Despite being the youngest in his classes, Ambati says he was "used to it." He adds, "I grew up doing this accelerated, and so I always had friends my own age and friends older than me, and it was fun."

When Ambati entered medical school at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, he was just 14. "The first day of med school, the dean welcomed the class and let everyone know there was a wide age range in the class," Ambati says. "The oldest student was 35 and the youngest was 14, and so there was a hunt for this little kid." He says despite the hunt, many students didn't know it was him because he was 5 feet 10 inches tall.

Once his peers and professors found out it was him, he says he was not treated very differently. "When you're 80 years old, whether your medical student is 24 or 16, they're still a kid," Ambati says. "I think I had a really good medical school experience."

During medical school, Ambati was working at Elmhurst Hospital in New York when a woman presented with multiple stab wounds, one of which resulted in her brachial artery being severed.

An arterial bleed is particularly dangerous due to loss of a high volume of oxygenated blood. As the medical student on the floor, Ambati was instructed to apply pressure to the woman's arm. "It was probably only 20 minutes, but it felt like forever," Ambati says. "My scrubs were covered in blood, and I grew up a lot that night."

Ambati graduated medical school at 17 and chose to pursue ophthalmology, a specialty focusing on research, diagnosis and treatment of eye-related disorders. "I went into ophthalmology because I like eyes, but nobody dies and, generally, what you do works," Ambati says.

On his second day as an attending physician at the Medical College of Georgia, where he also received his Ph.D., a woman presented with severe chemical burns to her face after her ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend threw drain cleaner on her. Both of her corneas were burned, resulting in almost complete blindness.

Ambati says if it had occurred just a few years earlier, there would have been no treatment options for the woman. However, Ambati was able to perform an amniotic membrane tissue transplant, a stem cell transplant and a cornea transplant to ultimately restore the woman's vision to 20/50, allowing her to see her daughter again and pass a driving test. "That's one of my favorite stories in ophthalmology, the impact you can make on people who are blind," Ambati says.

His combined passions for science and practicing medicine have helped him and his team make discoveries aiding in the treatment of corneal angiogenesis, a disorder that causes the abnormal growth of new blood vessels into the cornea, which can lead to scarring and cause vision loss.

"Being a scientist helps me be a better doctor because I stay current on the literature and I ask more questions," Ambati says. "And then being a doctor helps me be a better scientist because I understand what's important and I understand what's feasible."

In 2011, Ambati was in a dark place after his partner at the time refused his marriage proposal. "I needed to do something to generate positive energy," he says. Ambati tried things like stand-up comedy, piano lessons and guitar lessons, but nothing seemed to work. That's when he signed up for the organ donor registry.

Two weeks later, he got a call informing him he was a match with a 16-year-old boy in Idaho experiencing kidney failure and was on dialysis. After a flurry of tests Ambati went under the knife, donating his kidney. "I hope he's living life and doing well" Ambati says.

In 2015, Ambati moved to Eugene with his wife and purchased Pacific Clear Vision Institute in 2019.

He works with Orbis International, a nonprofit nongovernmental organization that operates a flying hospital, traveling around the world to provide eyesight-saving surgery to those without access to advanced surgical techniques. Ambati is also a research professor at the University of Oregon and founder of The Ambati Lab at the UO Knight Campus.

If he had to live life all over again, Ambati says he'd still choose to be a doctor. "I'm proud of what I do. I'm proud of the people I work with."

Dr. Balamurali Ambati owns Pacific Clear Vision Institute, which operates locations in Eugene and Cottage Grove. For more information, visit PCVI.com.

Kiatsu Migraine Relief

Classes at the Oregon Ki Society's Eugene Dojo offer an alternative treatment to migraine-related pain

BY ELLA POOR

Migraines are not just painful headaches. They can be debilitating, last up to 72 hours and disrupt life by leaving sufferers exhausted for days. While doctors typically prescribe medication to treat migraines, *Kiatsu* lecturer and retired physician Dr. Terry Copperman offers an alternative therapy.

Every Thursday at 3 pm, Copperman teaches a migraine and headache prevention class at the Oregon Ki Society's Eugene Ki-Aikido Dojo where he is the senior instructor. There, students learn how to relieve and prevent migraine-related pain through Kiatsu therapy techniques.

DR. TERRY COPPERMAN TEACHES A KIATSU CLASS. *Photo by Brian Patridge*

These techniques include improving posture, practicing relaxation meditation, engaging in deep breathing exercises and pressing on the neck, shoulders and base of the skull.

Kiatsu is rooted in *Ki,* the Japanese word for "living energy." Copperman says Kiatsu therapy involves "putting Ki" into a part of the body that is injured or in pain through a process that can improve the body's natural healing.

Copperman refers to Kiatsu techniques as "tools to unify mind, body and spirit," and emphasizes the importance of students staying committed to training outside of class. He instructs students to practice "keeping one point" 100 times a day outside of class during the first week to prevent symptom emergence.

"Keeping one point" is a meditation technique that involves focusing one's mind on one physical point on the lower abdomen. People often question the effectiveness of Kiatsu, a holistic therapy. Even Copperman's students can be skeptical of Kiatsu techniques. "There are people who are so skeptical that they won't actually do the techniques completely — they're doubting it while they're doing it," he says.

As someone who practiced Western medicine, Copperman himself initially questioned Kiatsu's ability to help treat physical pain. "I was tremendously skeptical when I first started," he says. This changed when he used Kiatsu therapy to relieve a second-degree burn. After he was pain free within 18 hours, he became fascinated with Kiatsu's health benefits.

Copperman says he is now the only physician in North America trained to use Kiatsu techniques. "I wanted to figure out how I could research this, because I could see the phenomenon was real and very valuable," he says.

In 2018, Copperman collaborated with Northwest Ki Federation head and Kiatsu instructor Calvin Tabata, Oregon Health & Science University professors Philip Copenhaver and Shirley McCartney and Vancouver Ki Society instructor Saman Vazinkhoo to study the benefits of Kiatsu therapy in treating migraines in female subjects.

Results of the study showed a 53 percent overall reduction in migraines after six months, and 10 of the 21 participants were completely migraine free in two months. Participants also reported improvements in quality of life throughout the duration of the study.

Studying the impacts of Kiatsu on migraines was "especially appropriate," Copperman says. "The Kiatsu basically jump-starts the healing process but it doesn't complete it. A person's own natural healing has to complete it."

The Eugene Ki-Aikido Dojo is a branch of the Oregon Ki Society, a nonprofit organization made up of dojos that teach Kiatsu and Aikido martial arts to youth and adults around the state.

Copperman raised money to build the dojo, which his wife, Lynne Copperman designed. It was established in 1995. He is now part of a staff of volunteers that keep it running.

"I want to develop a good student base and some teachers that can take this into the next generation," Copperman says. "It's really rewarding for me, I have a very close relationship with my patients," which, he says, "creates some meaning in my retirement."

The Prevent Your Headaches and Migraines *class is 3 pm to 4 pm every Thursday at Eugene Ki-Aikido Dojo, 1071 W. 7th Ave. Classes start at $45, and partial scholarships are available. Call 541-683-5089 or visit EugeneKiAikido.org for program information.*

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FERRET AGILITY TRIALS
Photo by Bill Ellis

AUGUST 30

If you love ferrets, carnival games or are simply looking for a unique local event to go to this weekend, the last ever **Ferret Agility Trials** is August 30. You can enter your ferret to compete in multiple games, including the tube run, strongest ferret competition, yawning contest, paper bag escape and more. Melanee Ellis, who organizes the agility trials, says that any ferret can enter the games. Ellis has been organizing the event since the 1990s to bring together ferret lovers and raise funds for the Lane Area Ferret Shelter and Rescue, which she opened in 1993. The trials were known as the Ferret Olympics until 2005 when the U.S. Olympic Committee threatened a lawsuit. Ellis is retiring and closing the shelter, making this year's Ferret Agility Trials the last one after more than 30 years. All proceeds will be donated to Little Critter Crew, an Oregon shelter that rescues small mammals. Even if you don't have a ferret, you can still watch the games for free, as well as pet and hold ferrets. "We're not going to charge you to have a good time," Ellis says. You can also play carnival games for only 25 cents per ticket, enter to win pet supplies in the raffle, bid in the silent auction and shop for ferret supplies at the Bandit Boutique. "Ferrets are very playful, so they're just a lot of fun to be around," Ellis says. "It's really fun to watch." — *Ella Poor*

The Ferret Agility Trials *are noon to 4 pm Sunday, August 30 at Emerald Park, 1400 Lake Drive. Free.*

August 27
THURSDAY

Comedy

Slay Hazel, 9:30pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Starlight Lounge, 830 Olive St.

Dance

Next Step Dance, 11:15am-5:30pm today-Thurs., Sept. 3, Emerald Square Dance Ctr., 2095 Yolanda Ave.

Latin Dance Night w/ DJ Vito, 7-10pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. $5.

Two Step Thursday, 7:30-9:30pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. $10-20.

Film

Horrible Bingo: *Shredder* (2003), 7-9pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. $10.

Food & Drink

Thursday Tasting Series, 6-8pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Gatherings

Ribbon Cutting: Community Supported Shelters, 5:30pm, 2870 W. 10th Pl.

Creator Meetup, 6-7pm, Books w/ Pictures, 296 E. 5th Ave. ste. 224.

Suicide Prevention Meditation, 6:30pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Health & Wellness

Food As Medicine, 3-4:30pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Riverbend Annex, 123 International Way,

Kids

Pre-K Storytime, 10-10:30am today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Creswell Library, 64 W. Oregon Ave.

Family Playtime, 10:15am today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Bee Amazed: Family Science Fun, 2pm, Sheldon Community Ctr., 2445 Willakenzie Rd.

Full Steam Ahead: Paper Airplanes, 3:30-4:30pm, Creswell Library, 64 W. Oregon Ave.

Learning

Duck Talks, 6:30pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

LGBT

Lace & Literature: Sapphic Book Club, 6:30-8:30pm, Shelton McMurphey-Johnson House, 303 Willamette St.

Markets & Shopping

All-Ages Board Game & Puzzle Swap, 6-7:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Nightlife

Trivia w/ Brett, 6:30-8:30pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Viking Brewing W., 520 Commercial St. ste. F.

Twisted Duck Bingo, 7-9pm today, Sat., Thurs., Sept. 3, Twisted Duck Pub, 529 W. Centennial Blvd.

FWD Trivia, 7pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Karaoke w/ Adam, 8pm today, Fri., Thurs., Sept. 3, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd ste. 3288.

Karaoke, 8:30pm today, Fri., Thurs., Sept. 3, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Karaoke, 9pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Bohemian Tavern, 48 N. 9th St., Cottage Grove.

Religion/Spirituality

Qigong in the Park w/ Nate, 5:30-6:30pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Sladden Park, 925 Cheshire Ave. $15.

Tarot Practice Circle, 7-9pm, Brightheart Alchemy Guides, 995 Lewis Ave. $7-13.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle Chair Yoga w/ Clark Stacer, noon-1pm today, Tue., Thurs., Sept. 3, St. Thomas Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 1465 Coburg Rd., FREE-$8.

Native Plant Garden Work Party, 1-4pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3, Hendricks Parks, 2200 Summit Ave.

Whilamut River Walk & Nature Immersion, 2-3:30pm today, Wed., Thurs., Sept. 3, Alton Baker Park, 100 Day Island Rd. $24.95.

Breakfast at the Bike Bridges, 3:30-5:30pm, Knickerbocker Bike Bridge.

Willamette Rose Urban Forest Bath & River Walk, 4:30-6pm today, Wed., Thurs., Sept. 3, Maurie Jacobs Park, Fir Ln. $33.80.

Visual Arts

Art Studio Drop-In Time, 11am-1pm today, Tue., Thurs., Sept. 27, Radiant Community Arts, 110 E. 11th Ave. ste. C. $15.

High Drama: Japanese Prints of Theater & Heroes & History, 11am-5pm, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Ln. FREE-$5.

Gary Giddens Photography Exhibition Opening & Community Viewing, 5-7pm, W. Ave. Furniture, 2305 W. 11th Ave.

August 28
FRIDAY

Dance

Single Trees, 7-11pm, Emerald Square Dance Ctr., 2095 Yolanda Ave., Spfd.

Emerald Valley Dancers, 7:15-10:15pm, Emerald Square Dance Ctr., 2095 Yolanda Ave., Spfd.

Salsa & Bachata Social Dance & Class, 8pm, Vet's Club Bldg., 1626 Willamette. $10.

Fundraisers

Eugene Science Ctr. Fundraiser, 10:30am-10pm, MOD Pizza, 203 Coburg Rd.

Film

Dive-in Movie: *The Lion King* (1994), 8:30-11pm, Splash, 6100 Thurston Rd. $4-11.

Food & Drink

Mixology Class, 6:15-7:30pm, Ebb & Flow Boutique, 946 Willamette. $35.

Gatherings

Eugene Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome & Hypermobility Support Group, 4-6pm, Email eugenewildstripes@zohomail.com for location.

Community Care Night, 6-7pm, Abilities Diner & Bakery, 790 Blair Blvd.

Kids

Oregon's Dino-Story, 10am-4pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave. FREE-$7.

Game Night, 6:30-8pm, Adventure! Children's Museum, 490 Valley River Ctr.

Learning

Gardening w/ Modern Roses, 9am-noon, Owen Rose Garden, 300 N. Jefferson.

Drop-In Tech Help, 10:30-11:30am, Spfd. Public Library, 225 5th St.

Comparing Solar Quotes Webinar: Solar Oregon, 1-2pm, Zoom, visit TinyUrl.com/CSQaug26 for link.

How Crystals Can Aid in Your Full Moon Journey, 6:45-7:30pm, McNail Riley House, 601 W. 13th Ave.

Literary Arts

Tarot Readings w/ Echo, 2-6pm, Bree's Way Gift Shop, 1231 Alder St. $10-50.

Markets & Shopping

All-Ages Board Game & Puzzle Swap, 3-5pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Religion/Spirituality

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Recovery Mtg., 10-11am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Critical Mass Bike Ride, 6:30pm, Ken Kesey Square, 10 E. Broadway.

Teens

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St.

Theater

Cirque Ma'Ceo, 7pm today, 4pm & 7pm Sun., Oregon Horse Ctr., 90751 Prairie Rd. $25-40.

The Shark is Broken, 7:30-9:45pm today, Sat., Thurs., Sept. 3, 2pm Sun., The Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard St. $16-22.

Visual Arts

DIY Candle Making, noon-5pm today, Sat., Farm Kitchen Candle Co., 91118 N. Harrison St. ste. 102. $39.

Whiteaker Last Friday ArtWalk, 5pm, Whiteaker Neighborhood.

Art Walk, 6pm, Downtown, 7th & Main St.

Last Friday ArtWalk Workshop Series, 6-8pm, Clay Space, 222 Polk St. $80.

Gloria Glow Worm, 8:30-10:30pm, The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St.

August 29
SATURDAY

Comedy

Bleepin' Funny Comedy Show, 4-6pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Midnight Hacks w/ Angie Bloomfield, 11:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd,

Dance

CCCA Dance, 6-10pm, Emerald Square Dance Ctr., 2095 Yolanda Ave., Spfd.

Belly Dancing, 8-10pm, The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St.

Drag Show

All Ages Drag Bingo, 5pm, The Sparrow & Serpent Pub, 211 Washington St. $1-5.

Festivals & Fairs

AsheFest, 9am-4pm, Caffe Pacori, 255 Wallis St. ste. 3.

Japan Obon & Taiko Festival, 1-7pm, Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School, 2855 Lincoln St.

Film

***Zootopia 2* (2026)**, 7:30-10pm, Harry Holt Memorial Park, 127 N 4th St.

Fundraisers

NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner & Concert, 3-8pm, The Shedd, 868 High St. $75-150.

Gatherings

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Bldg., 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Coffee w/ a Cop, 10am-noon, 116 Melton Rd.

Whiteaker Stories, 7:30pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. $10-15.

Health & Wellness

Walk w/ A Doc, 9-10am, Greenway Bridge, 293 Valley River Ctr.

Kids

Oregon's Dino-Story, 10am-4pm, Museum of Natural & Cultural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave., FREE-$7.

Baby & Toddler Playtime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Kidical Mass, 2-4pm, Sladden Park, 925 Cheshire Ave.

Knock Knock, 2pm, Adventure! Children's Museum, 490 Valley River Ctr.

LEGO, 3-5pm, Bethel Branch of Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Learning

Historic Tour & Ice Cream Social, 11am-3pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave.

Fashion Clownette Costume Academy: Essential Sewing Saturdays, 2-5:30pm, Eugene Ballet Costume Shop, 154 E. 16th Ave. $60.

All About Anal w/ Javay da BAE, 4-6pm, As You Like It, 1655 W. 11th. $20.

Markets & Shopping

Huge Used Book Sale, 8am-2pm, Irving Grange, 1011 Irvington Dr.

Farmers Market, 9am-2pm today, Tue., Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

Saturday Market, 10am-4pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

Spencer Creek Market, 10am-2pm, Spencer Creek Grange, 86013 Lorane Hwy.

All-Ages Board Game & Puzzle Swap, 10:30am-noon, Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Nightlife

Bingo, 5-7pm, American Legion, 826 W. Main St., Cottage Grove.

Karaoke, 8pm, The Cooler Restaurant & Bar, 20 Centennial Lp.

Karaoke, 9pm, Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St.

Karaoke, 9pm-1am, Great Western Pub, 802 E. Whiteaker Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

STOL'N Out W. Competition Event, 9am-6:30pm, 83501 Melton Rd.

Petanque Lessons, 10am-noon, Umso Park, Grand Cayman & Antigua Dr.

Stride Sisters Run Club, 10am, Alton Baker, Leo Harris Pkwy.

Summer Fling Ultimate Frisbee Hat Tournament, 10am-1:45pm, Century Fields, 500 E. 24th Ave. $15.

Yoga, 10am, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. $10-20.

Mokwheel Saturday Night Group Rides, 6-9pm, Mokwheel Plus, 187 E. Broadway.

Religion/Spirituality

Insight Meditation & Dharma Reflections & Discussion, 9:30-11am, Unitarian Universalist Bldg., 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Astrology & Human Design w/ Fourth Cup Astrology, 1-5pm, Bree's Way Gift Shop, 1231 Alder St. $33-111.

August 30
SUNDAY

Fundraisers

Best in Show: Wiggly Tails Adoption Event, noon-3pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Adoption w/ Lucky Pawz, 1-4pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Bingo Benefiting Charity, 3-5pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon. $2-5.

Comedy

Midnight Hacks w/ Angie Bloomfield, 11:30pm, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Dance

Eugene Community Ecstatic Dance, 11am, River Banks, 118 Merry Ln.

Balkan Dancing, 7:15-9:30pm, Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1626 Willamette. $3-7.

Film

Poetic Lens Film Collective, 5-7pm, Hybrid Gallery, 941 W. 3rd St.

Food & Drink

Community Potluck Picnic, 4-7pm, Independent Community Ctr., 31615 Fern Rd.

Kids

Paper Airplanes, 1-4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Family Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 5:30-7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Learning

Hope Abbey Open House, 1-4pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 2575 University St.

Learn To Ride, 2-4:30pm, Willamette High School, 1801 Echo Hollow Rd.

LGBT

Spin Cycle Squares, 4-6:30pm, Emerald Square & Round Dance Ctr., 2095 Yolanda Ave.

Literary Arts

Poetry in the Round, 12:30-2pm, Coburg Commons Bookstore, 91193 N Willamette St.

Writing Time, 6:30-9pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. $5.

Markets & Shopping

Huge Used Book Sale, 8am-2pm, Irving Grange, 1011 Irvington Dr.

Farmers Market, 9am-2pm, Spfd. Public Library, 225 5th St.

Whiteaker Community Market, 10am-3pm, Whiteaker Community Market, 1180 W. 4th Ave.

Nightlife

Quality Trivia w/ Elliot Martinez, 7-9pm, Blairally, 245 Blair Blvd.

Quality Trivia w/ Stephen, 8pm, Houndstooth Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

Trauma-Informed Yoga for Veterans, 9:30-10:30am, Sheldon Community Ctr., 2445 Willakenzie Rd.

Last Ferret Agility Trials, noon-4pm, Emerald Park, 1400 Lake Dr.

Religion/Spirituality

A Common Endeavour, 10-11:30am, Bahá'í Ctr., 1458 Alder St.

Sunday Service, 10:30am-12:30pm, Chapel of Praise, 4020 Marshall Ave.,

Sunday Morning Soul Connection, 10:45am-noon, EVCSL The Light House, 458 Blair Blvd.

Aura Photography & Reiki, 1-5pm, Bree's Way Gift Shop, 1231 Alder St. $25-88.

August 31
MONDAY

Civics

PHB Food Security Task Group, 3pm, Online, visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Comedy

Open Mic Comedy, 7:30pm, Slice, 325 Blair Blvd.

Dance

Christina's Twirling Twos, 6:30-9:30pm, Emerald Square Dance Ctr., 2095 Yolanda Ave., Spfd. FREE-$5.

W. Coast Swing Dance Club, 7-10:30pm, Veterans Memorial Club, 1626 Williamette. $5-10.

Gatherings

Afternoon Chess, 4-6pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St. ste. 4606.

Peer Connection Support Group, 6-7:30pm, Fern Ridge Library, 88026 Territorial Rd.

Cascade Brewers Society, 7-9pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St.

Nightlife

Open Mic, 5:30pm, Houndstooth Public House, 1795 W. 6th Ave.

Eugene Deadhead Trivia, 6-8pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave.

Bingo, 6:30pm, Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St.

Bingo, 6:30pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Annex, 1236 Kincaid St. $3.

Trivia, 7pm, PLAY, 232 W. 5th Ave.

Outdoors/Recreation

Taiji & Qigong & Mobility Class, 9-10am, Amazon Park, 22 Amazon Pkwy. $15-20.

Religion/Spirituality

Mindfulness Meditation w/ Psychology Talk, 6:15-8pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B. FREE-$20.

Mindful Integration & Breathwork w/ PSILO Temple, 7-9pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1300 Pearl St.

September 1
TUESDAY

Civics

Board of Commissioners Mtg., 9am, Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave., or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Lane County Planning Commission Mtg, 6-9pm, Lane County Customer Service Ctr. 3050 N. Delta Hwy. or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Comedy

Amusedays Open Mic w/ Chaz, 7-10pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave.

Food & Drink

Spfd. Greeters: Business Before Hours 2026, 6:30-8:30am, Gateway Grill, 3198 Gateway St. $10-20.

Gatherings

NW EcoBuilders Guild Get Together, 6-8pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Health & Wellness

5NP Drop-In Clinic, 11am-1pm, Facing Giants, 576 Olive St. $10-30.

Live Lifestyle Medicine Free, 7-8:30pm, First Christian Church of Spfd., 395 W. Centennial Blvd.

Kids

Baby Storytime, 9:45-10:15am & 10:30-11am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Babytime Storytime, 10-10:20am, Creswell Library, 64 W. Oregon Ave.

Noche de Lotería en Español, 6:15pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Learning

Tech Help, 2pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Grown-Up Story Hour, 6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

The Artist's Way Group Journey, 6pm, Don Dexter Gallery, 2911 Tennyson Ave. ste. 202 The Inkwell Bldg., 2nd Fl.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 9:30am-noon, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. $5.

Coffee & Books, 11am-noon, Creswell Library, 64 W. Oregon Ave.

Eugene Poetry Club, 6pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. $5.

2025 OBON AND TAIKO FESTIVAL. *Courtesy of Roger Yamaguchi*

AUGUST 29

The **Obon and Taiko Festival** celebrates its 35th anniversary Saturday, August 29. The event centers on celebrating Japanese traditions, live taiko drumming and remembrance of ancestors and loved ones and live taiko drumming. "Obon is about remembering the people who came before us and enjoying the community we have around us today. For 35 years, the festival has given us a chance to share our tradition with our neighbors," Roger Yamaguchi, president of the Japanese American Association of Lane County, tells *Eugene Weekly*. Eugene Taiko and Waka Daiko will perform at the festival. Yamaguchi explains that Waka Daiko is a group aimed at young adults, while Eugene Taiko is for adults. "They decided to make their own drums out of whiskey barrels and stretch cowhides so that they would have their own authentic drums. Originally they practiced on tires, just to learn the drumming," Yamaguchi says. There will be five food vendors at the festival, including the Japanese American Association selling *mochi,* a kind of glutinous rice cake, and Spam *musubi,* grilled Spam on rice wrapped with seaweed, popular in Hawaii. There is also a dedicated children's area that offers games, crafts and origami through the afternoon. Yamaguchi says his favorite part of the festival is "seeing the joy and happiness and smiles from the participants" and also giving audiences a "chance to learn about Japanese culture." — *Aishiki Nag*

The Obon and Taiko Festival *is 1 to 7 pm Saturday, August 29 at the Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School. 2855 Lincoln Street. Free.*

Nightlife

Bingo, 5-9pm, Eugene Elks Lodge ste. 357, 2470 W. 11th Ave. $5-50.

Trivia, 6-8pm, Tallman, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon.

Trivia, 6:30-8:30pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St.

Bingo w/ Judy Jitsu, 7pm, PLAY, 232 W. 5th Ave.

Trivia, 7pm, Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St.

Outdoors/Recreation

Petanque Lessons, 10am-noon, Umso Park, Grand Cayman & Antigua Dr.

Yoga in the Park, 5:30-6:30pm, Washington Park, 2025 Washington St.

Disc Golf: Summer Putting Series, 6-8pm, Alton Baker Park, 100 Island Park Rd. $3-5.

Disciples of Dirt Taco Tuesday Ride, 6-7:30pm, Thurston Hills Natural Area, 7575 McKenzie Hwy,

Religion/Spirituality

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Recovery Mtg., 6-7pm, First Congregational Church, 1050 E. 23rd Ave.

Sports

Eugene Emeralds, 6:35pm today-Thurs., Sept. 3, PK Park, 2800 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. $10-20.

Teens

Middle School Campus Life Youth for Christ Group, 7-8:30pm, 83333 Harvey Rd.

Visual Arts

Queer & Trans Figure Drawing, 6-8pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave.

Figure Art Session, 6:15-9pm today, Wed., New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave. $8.

September 2
WEDNESDAY

Dance

West Coast Swing Social & Beginner Class, 6pm, Salseros Dance Studio, 2512 Oakmont Way ste. C.

Film

A Nahuatl Documentary & Q&A Un documental en náhuatl y una plática, 5:30pm, Spfd. Public Library, 225 5th St.

Gatherings

Baby Connection, 11am-noon, Parenting Now, 86 Centennial Lp.

Climate Action Party, 5:30-7pm, Da Ra Cafe & Brew, 565 Country Club.

Overeaters Anonymous, 6-7:30pm, Episcopal Church, 3925 Hilyard St.

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AUG 30
THE POETIC LENS FILM COLLECTIVE
Hybrid Gallery
941 W. 3rd Ave - 5-7pm
Filmmaker Collective forming to discuss ongoing work, collaborate, share equipment and hold community screenings.
We are looking for filmmakerss who are interested in exploring film as ART and are open to experimentation.
For more info: 541-505-2564

CALENDAR

Online Peer Connection Support Group, 6:30-8pm, 129 9th St.

Health & Wellness

Balance for Life & Bo Yoga & Qigong, 10-11am, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. $15-20.

Kids

Bilingual Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Learning

The Future of Electric Vehicle Charging, 6:30-8pm, Lane Electric Cooperative, 787 Bailey Hill Rd.

Literary Arts

Write Your Way Forward, 3-4:30pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. $89.

Emily Poole Book Release & Art Opening, 7-8:30pm, Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette.

AUGUST 29

ASHE 'THE VIBE RATER' NEWTON *Photo by Louie Stehr*

Eugene influencer Ashe "The Vibe Rater" Newton has been making the rounds of local fame in a huge way. Her online presence is dedicated to touring popular and hidden gem Lane County haunts to rate their vibe, such as Blairally, a pipe in Springfield and even *Eugene Weekly* itself. Their videos provide a humorous if not off-kilter walk through of these spots, with the hidden agenda of educating viewers about their histories in the Eugene-Springfield community. She has recently live-rated POW Pro Wrestling, and served as a celebrity judge for the SLUG Queen Pageant and Coronation. Now, Newton is ready to meet the people who have made this all possible, with their 29th birthday celebration, **AsheFest** August 29 all day at Caffe Pacori. There will be a performance by Eugene clown Litzibitz, live music by eclectic local bands such as dark orchestral folk ensemble Baroque Betty, indie drag folk artist Lazaurus Pearl, trans femme band Dogs by Desgn, musical comedy by Nat Tandowski and hip hop by Dirtball. There will also be DJ sets, a raffle supporting transgender nonprofit Transponder, and, perhaps most importantly, an Ashe Lookalike Contest — so don't forget your pink or blonde wig and tight halter tops. "I have been wanting to do some sort of meet-and-greet or have a way to connect with fans of my videos, so making it a full day of music, art and fun seemed like the best option," she says. "I hope that people can come out and make some new friends, find a new creative spark, or just feel some joy." As far as making it the vibiest day possible, they say that "peak vibes are always made by the people I meet." — *Savannah Brown*

AsheFest *is 9 am to 4 pm Saturday, August 29 at Caffe Pacori, 255 Wallis Street suite 3. Free. Check out Ashe The Vibe Rater on Tiktok and Instagram at @AsheTheVibeRater and Facebook at Ashe Newton.*

Nightlife

Quality Trivia w/ Alex, 6-8pm, Hey Neighbor! Pizza, 605 W. 19th Ave.

Trivia, 6-8pm, The Garden on Friendly, 2760 Friendly St.

Board Game Night w/ Ayla, 6:30-10pm, The Axe & Fiddle, 657 E. Main St.

Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. $5.

Bingo w/ Ty Connor, 7pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Get in the Game Show, 7-9pm, Centennial Steak House & Sports Bar, 1300 Mohawk Blvd.

Karaoke, 8pm, Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St.

Trivia w/ Thomas Hiura, 8-9:45pm, Starlight Lounge, 830 Olive St.

Karaoke, 9pm, Blairally Vintage Arcade, 245 Blair Blvd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Basic Bike Maintenance, 6-7:30pm, Shift Community Cycles, 811 W. 6th Ave.

Co-Ed Pick-Up, 6-8pm, Bob Keefer Ctr., 250 S. 32nd St., Spfd.

Teens

Graveyard Shift: Bones, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.Arts

September 3

THURSDAY

Fundraisers

Fundraiser, 4-8pm, Noodles & Co, 1053 Valley River Wy.

Gatherings

Eugene CURE, 6:30-8:30pm, Call 541-521-2231 to confirm location.

Kids

Toddler Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Markets & Shopping

Whiteaker Golden Hour Night Market, 4-8pm, Farmer's Market Pavillion, 85 E. 8th Ave.

Music Listings

Thursday 8/27

Beergarden, Sugar Push (funk) — 7pm.

Coast Fork Brewing, Blessed Relief Jazz Trio — 6pm.

Cowfish Dance Club, Z Night — 9pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3.

Jazzy Ladies, Jazz Supper Club — 5:30pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3.

Kesey Square, Lee Herrera (guitar) — noon.

Luckey's Club, Funk Night — 9pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3.

Mac's Restaurant, Rooster's Blues Jam — 6:30pm.

PLAY, DJ Wreck Shop — 6pm.

Spfd. Eagles Lodge No. 3597, Thursday Night Jam — 7pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3.

The Axe & Fiddle, Open Mic — 6:30pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3.

Veneta City Park, Music in the Park — 7pm today, Thurs., Sept. 3.

Friday 8/28

Bennett Vineyards, Riffle (blues rock) — 5pm.

Blairally Vintage Arcade, Church of 80s Night — 9pm. $5.

Bohemia Park Amphitheater, South Lane Concert — 5pm.

Cowfish Dance Club, Freek! Dance Party — 9pm.

Eugene Science Ctr., Friday Laser Shows: K-Pop, Michael Jackson, Foo Fighters — 5pm. $4-8.

Gratitude Brewing, Greg Nestler Trio (blues) — 7:30pm.

John Henry's, Russian Blue w/ Stariana & Tiny Dino (punk) — 9pm. $10-15.

LTD Eugene Station, Performances at the Plaza — 2pm.

LaVelle Vineyards, Casanostra (Salsa) — 6pm.

Mac's Restaurant, Foxglove (funk) — 7pm.

PLAY, Elena Leona Project (r&b) — 7pm.

Saginaw Vineyard, Coupe de Ville (classic rock) — 6pm.

Sarver Winery, Ryker & The Rise (pop) — 5:30pm.

The Axe & Fiddle, Wild At Heart (classic rock) — 8:30pm.

The Garden on Friendly, Goat Mouth (jam) — 7pm.

The Hybrid, Tuesday String Band — 8:30pm. $15.

The Jazz Station, Max Haymer Trio — 7:30pm. $25.

WOW Hall, MaMuse (folk) — 8pm. $35-45.

Saturday 8/29

Art House, Horse Feathers (folk) — 8pm. $30.

Blairally, Bodhi Mojo (jam) — 9pm. $10-12.

Eugene Science Ctr., K-Pop Demon Hunters Laser Show — noon. $4-8.

Even Steven's, Poppy Robbie & Jimmi Dean Sausage & Lil' Mort (Americana) — 8pm.

Gratitude Brewing, Acoustic Flood (Missoula Flood) — 7:30pm.

Happy Hours, Seeking Saturn ('90s covers) — 8pm.

Mac's Restaurant, The Survivors (classic rock) — 7pm.

PLAY, The Squeeky Wheels (Americana) — 7pm.

Sarver Winery, Hank Shreve Band (blues) — 3pm.

The Barn Light Bar, Latin Nights — 9pm.

The Garden on Friendly, Brook & Tim (surf) — 7pm.

Viking Brewing West, Way Far Yonder (bluegrass) — 6pm.

Sunday 8/30

Cowfish Dance Club, Goth Night — 9pm.

Even Stevens Bar & Grill, EastSide Sunday Jam — 5pm.

Falling Sky Brewing, Irish Traditional Music Session — 4pm.

Gratitude Brewing, Open Mic — 3pm.

John Henry's, SLEEPBOMB: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920) — 9pm.

PublicHouse, Open Mic w/ Amblin — 6pm.

The Axe & Fiddle, Walker T Ryan (blues) — 6pm.

Tuesday 9/1

Blairally, Joint Souls & Luke's New Band & Foxglove & Stella Jones (funk) — 9pm. $10.

Cowfish Dance Club, Techno Night — 9pm.

Kesey Square, Moulin Groove (blues) — noon.

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, Chamber Music Amici — 6:45pm today, Tue. $45.

Oakshire Brewing, Bluegrass Jam — 6:30pm.

Oregon Wine Lab, One Mic Open Mic — 5pm.

Wednesday 9/2

Cowfish Dance Club, Millennial Night — 9pm.

Gratitude Brewing, Open Bluegrass Jam Session — 6pm.

Kesey Square, Sara & The Hurricanes (r&b) — noon.

The Hybrid, Open Mic — 7:30pm. $5-15.

WOW Hall, Abstract Rude (hip-hop) — 8pm. $20-25.

Thursday 9/3

Art House, First Thursday Music Series — 7:30pm.

HORSE FEATHERS *Photo by Tyler Little*

AUGUST 28

For the first time in several years, Oregon indie-folk band **Horse Feathers** is back out on the road, celebrating the 20th anniversary of their cult classic breakthrough album, *Words Are Dead*. Horse Feathers brings their anniversary tour to Eugene August 29 at Art House. In the 2000s, the band rode the hipster-influenced acoustic music wave, similar to The Decemberists, The Avett Brothers or Fleet Foxes. While the songs are modern in tone and perspective, the traditional instrumentation features cello, acoustic bass, acoustic guitars, fiddle and banjo. Singer-songwriter Justin Ringle still leads the group, which started in Portland and is now based in Astoria. Alongside Ringle, the current lineup features members of River Whyless and Blind Pilot. Ringle never stopped playing *Words Are Dead* songs, but says the songs have grown and changed over the years. Looking back on his earlier music, he says it's like revisiting old journal entries. With time and practice, he's developed as a musician, but in retrospect, he says the older songs feel "punk rock" in their intent and passion, which he appreciates. He recalls the Pablo Picasso quote, "It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child." Horse Feathers will play two sets at Art House, the first a tribute to *Words Are Dead*, and the second with selections from throughout their catalog. The album's original label, Kill Rock Stars, reissues *Words Are Dead* wherever music is sold August 28, with a Horse Feathers demo CD included in vinyl copies. — *Will Kennedy*

Horse Feathers *play 8 pm Saturday, August 29, at Art House, 492 East 13th Avenue. Tickets are $30 and available at EugeneArtHouse.com. The concert is all ages.*

Hult Ctr., Duane Betts & Palmetto Motel (blues) — 7:30pm.

Kesey Square, Confluence Jazz Trio — noon.

Olsen Run Comedy Club & Lounge, Taken By The Sky (Fleetwood Mac tribute) — 6pm. $39.

The Axe & Fiddle, Open Mic w/ Bradly & Urban — 7pm.

The Pub at Laurelwood, Bertucci/Alves Trio (jazz) — 6pm.

EILEEN AND SCOTT MALK ARE WILLAMETTANS MEMBERS WHO TRAVEL TO THE CLUB FROM BEND.
Photo by Eve Weston

Good Morning, Sunshine!

Almost 200 naked people gathered in Marcola for the American Association for Nude Recreation Convention. Here's what happened.

BY SAVANNAH BROWN

For many, being in the nude is the most natural, human thing we can do — we were born naked after all. Some believe that staring the world right in the eyes must be done while baring it all.

The number of people whom this lifestyle calls is not small — and you may know more nudists than you think. When people need an escape to live the truest versions of themselves, nudist clubs and nudist events across the country patiently wait for them to wander in and leave their clothes at the door. One of these clubs is The Willamettans — "The Willies" — a 44-acre clothing optional property 30 miles northeast from Eugene.

The idea of a nudist club — a place where people gather to practice social nudism — is not necessarily a surprise. But what might be less commonly known is that most nudist clubs and their attendees belong to one organization, the American Association for Nude Recreation.

There are about 200 clubs (Willamettans included) that are strictly AANR-affiliated, with about 30,000 members across North America, including the United States, the Virgin Islands, Saint Martin, Canada and Mexico. From August 11 through August 16, 175 people from 21 clubs across North America (including 25 people who did not belong to any club) gathered at The Willamettans property near Marcola for the 95th annual AANR National Convention. They celebrated nude recreation, swam under the hot summer sun and looked to the year ahead in nudism.

According to Willamettans President Alan Jaskoski, the resort was more than sold out.

The first half of the week was mostly all business: Board of trustees meetings, elections, committee reports, members meetings, etc. Picture your average council meeting: a panel sitting in front of a group of people, going over business, while those sitting before them speak on issues and vote. The only difference is that this is a group of stark naked people in the forest.

According to Andee Rogers, the AANR president of the Northwest Region, a nudist might choose to be an AANR member for a variety of reasons. The first is because of its political lobbying for nudist rights. She says that many legislative bills do not "realize the outreaching effect that the wording that they chose would have," for people who practice social nudism. Other bills "very blatantly want to shut nudism down." Live and silent auctions at the convention sold items such as nonsexual "Naked TV" DVDs, where proceeds went towards AANR lobbying.

The other reason that someone would join AANR is the community of like-minded social nudists, Rogers says. An AANR stamp on a club's website, she says, means that it is "a safe place to be." AANR is strictly nonsexual and family friendly, with most AANR-affiliated clubs performing background checks on all members before they enter the grounds.

Everyone who attended the convention, including those in leadership positions, was screened before their arrival.

After the meetings came the partying. With a steampunk theme, there was live music, karaoke, crafting, pickleball and games such as jousting and blind golf cart racing — all organized by the regular Willamettans volunteers.

The national convention trades between the East Coast and the West Coast each year, and this is The Willies' first time hosting. Willamettans Marketing Director Jenny Agee says her strategy for bringing people to this year's convention was rooted in the tight-knit community.

"We're very niche," she says. "People travel and you meet the same nudists everywhere, so my goal was to bring the convention back to a highlight, a party, a fun time." Many of the attendees had met each other on recent nude cruises and buzzed about another one later in the summer. "Yes, there's meetings," Agee adds, "but make it fun, and then challenge other clubs to also continue."

For the steampunk theme, Sports Director Eileen Malk says "the funny thing about nudists, is we have a lot of dress-up clothes. We get dressed up as the theme, and then about three songs in, it's 'poof,'" she says, miming a magical wand that makes clothing disappear.

One convention attendee — who asked to remain anonymous for fear of pushback from his church — is also a member of a Christian naturist club. While nudism is a hobby, he says that naturism is a way of life. "We bear the image of God," he says. "He delights in His creation and wants to see us thrive, and does not want to see us cover up His image as if it is shameful."

This summer, his retirement trip is traveling to as many nudist clubs around the country as possible. He has been a naturist for 20 years and this is his first-ever AANR convention.

"I love the activities. It's been fun meeting people. I like the officers and the trustees, meeting them and playing different games," he says. Coming from Arizona, "I love the resort. Lots of nice shade and canopy here for those of us who sunburn." Sunscreen is a hot commodity at The Willamettans.

As of 2026, AANR membership rates range from $65 to $128 per year, or a one-time payment of $1,462.50 to be a lifetime member.

For more information on The Willamettans visit Willamettans.wildapricot.org. For more on the American Association of Nude Recreation visit AANR.com.

FALL 2026 DANCE CLASSES
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Vets Club Ballroom
Learn with Your Partner or Dance with Other Singles in the Classes.

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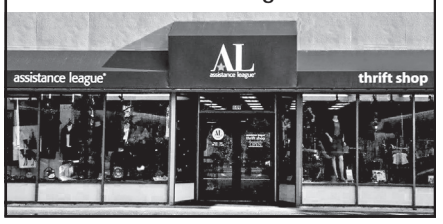

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EMPLOYMENT

Seeking Talent

Primary Care Physician, F/T, Praxis Health's Pearl Street Medical, 1835 Pearl St, Eugene, OR 97401. Address health maintenance of patients & assess & treat conditions that occur in everyday life such as sinus & respiratory infections, intestinal ailments & broken bones. Family medicine physicians in our medical practices may have regular, long-term patients, both adults & children & may include all members of the same household. Apply knowledge & skills necessary to perform duties of a physician in providing medical care; respond to emergency & non-emergency patient situations; assess nature & extent of injury or illness to establish and prioritize medical procedures to be followed; completes patient care forms and documentation; adhere to all policies & procedures relevant to providing medical care to patients. Other duties may be required in order to provide medical care in performance of the job. Requirements: Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree, or equivalent foreign degree. If qualifying by equivalent foreign degree, must have a certificate from ECFMG & equivalence must be determined by qualified education evaluation agency. Active Oregon medical license, or eligibility to obtain such license. For MDs, completion of the USMLE; for DOs, COMLEX-USA. Completion of a US medical residency program in Family Medicine. Board certification or Board eligibility for Family Medicine. Resume: Director of Talent Acquisition, Praxis Health, P.C, PO Box 1517, Pendleton, OR 97801; or via email: jasill@adaugeohealthcare.com. Ref: PCPDK.

Primary Care Physician, F/T, Praxis Health's Thurston Medical Clinic, 147 S. 52nd Pl, Springfield, OR 97478. Address health maintenance of patients & assess & treat conditions that occur in everyday life such as sinus & respiratory infections, intestinal ailments & broken bones. Family medicine physicians in our medical practices may have regular, long-term patients, both adults & children & may include all members of the same household. Apply knowledge & skills necessary to perform duties of a physician in providing medical care; respond to emergency & non-emergency patient situations; assess nature & extent of injury or illness to establish & prioritize medical procedures to be followed; complete patient care forms and documentation; adhere to all policies & procedures relevant to providing medical care to patients. Other duties may be required in order to provide medical care in performance of the job. Requirements: Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree, or equivalent foreign degree. If qualifying by equivalent foreign degree, must have a certificate from ECFMG & equivalence must be determined by qualified education evaluation agency. Active Oregon medical license, or eligibility to obtain such license. For MDs, completion of the USMLE; for DOs, COMLEX-USA. Completion of a US medical residency program in Family Medicine. Board certification or Board eligibility for Family Medicine. Resume: Director of Talent Acquisition, Praxis Health, P.C, PO Box 1517, Pendleton, OR 97801; or via email: jasill@adaugeohealthcare.com. Ref: PCPSKG.

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1 RM ON 12th & TAYLOR Quiet street, close to UofO, 1 blck from bus. 650, split util. 3-way, $200 dep+1st mo. Avail. Aug 20. 503-481-8922 Must be employed.

DEAR DOLLY,

You once sang about **Eugene, Oregon.** All these years later, Eugene would like to sing your praises. Thank you for the music, the laughter, the books, the kindness and all that sparkle. You gave an awful lot to this world, and we're grateful a little piece of Eugene found its way into your story. We'll miss you, Dolly. **With love, Eugene, Oregon**

BULLETIN BOARD

Announcements

ANY UNWANTED CANS AND BOTTLES? HELP A DISABLED MAN. Your recyclables can make a difference! CALL PAUL AT 541-520-4803

The Kiwanis Berry Sale is Happening Now! Order your frozen berries and pies online at: www.eekiwanis.org by 8/31/26

Wanted

$1000 REWARD: Stolen Bike: Surly Disc Long Haul Trucker with profile bars, aeroelastic seat, burgundy color. Last seen at IHOP on W. 11th. meadowjon55555@gmail.com

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE Probate Department CASE NO. 26PB07314 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS In the Matter of the ESTATE of HARRY MENZO THOM, Deceased, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on August 14, 2026, Connor Jackson was appointed and deemed qualified to act as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present these claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, as stated below to the personal representative's attorney, Susan Ezzy Jordan, Jordan & Williams, LLC., 180 West 6th Ave., Junction City, OR 97448 (541) 342-8110, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the attorney for the personal representative. DATED AND PUBLISHED: August 27, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debra K. Troutman has been appointed personal representative for the Estate of Ruby M. Stone, deceased, Case No. 26PB07466 in the Circuit Court for the State of Oregon for Lane County. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative at the address below, within four months after the date of publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the lawyers for the personal representative, The Law Office of Brian M. Thompson, 1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 110, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

Notice of Lien Sale ORS 87.192 Notice is hereby given by All Star Mini Storage that a public lien sale by auction of the personal property stored in the spaces listed below will be held on September 17, 2026, at the hour of 11:00 a.m. at bid13.com. The property is stored at 5353 Main St., Springfield, OR. The spaces and occupants are: 125 Mary Glenn & Deanna Dupont, 115A Nick Patton, 107A Kylynn Romig, 24 Nancy Pelletier, 82 Jennifer Bissonette, 131 Jisan Baker, 37 Denese Lawless, 132 Sheri Caldwell.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY - PROBATE DEPARTMENT. Case No. 26PB07414. In the matter of the Estate of Aletta Ann Biersack, Decedent, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Joan Alice Wozniak has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the aforementioned personal representative c/o Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401, within four months after the publication date of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or attorney for the personal representative, Northwest Legal, Attn: Jinoo Hwang, 975 Oak Street, Suite 700, Eugene, OR 97401.

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 9/1/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2019 JEEP CHE L VIN = 1C4PJMLX4KD482012 Amount due on lien $1550.00 Reputed owner(s) > ALYSSA NORRIS ALLY BANK

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PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 9/8/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by A-LINE AUTOBODY LLC 85444 LORANE HWY EUGENE, OR, 2000 TOYT TUN 4D VIN = 5TBBT4415YS112241 Amount due on lien $2723.00 Reputed owner(s) > DENNIS MICHEAL RIDENOUR OREGON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 9/8/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2018 DODG DUR 4D VIN = 1C4RDJAG4JC346436 Amount due on lien $1570.00 Reputed owner(s) > TAMIE M ALVAREZ V A U L TRUST / ALLY FINANCIAL

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 9/8/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2020 FORD EXP LL VIN = 1FMJK2AT2LEA73991 Amount due on lien $1570.00 Reputed owner(s) > TIFFINY ANN BANKS ROGUE CREDIT UNION

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 9/8/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2022 VOLV VNL TR VIN = 4V4NC9EH2NN300038 Amount due on lien $1570.00 Reputed owner(s) > RED BLUFF TRANS INC/R TL PRIDE TRANS INC THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 9/8/2026. The sale will be held at 10:00am by COPART OF WASHINGTON INC-EUGENE 29815 ENID RD EAST EUGENE, OR 2010 SUBA IMP SW VIN = JF1GH7G64AG812507 Amount due on lien $1570.00 Reputed owner(s) > M CHASTEEN & D SULLENGER OREGON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Sale of Abandoned Manufactured Home: One (1) 1971 BROOKWOOD manufactured dwelling, Plate number X201340, Home identification number 256749, Manufacturer's serial number(s) 2512, with contents (if any) has been abandoned by Nancy Martin Dicarlo and Stephen R. Dicarlo. The home is located at 1125 N 58th St., Spc 84, Springfield, OR 97478. Sale shall be by private bidding, with sealed bids, and "as is" (there is no warranty relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment or the like). Bids must be for a specific stated dollar figure and must be delivered to: Golden Oaks MHP at 1125 58th Street, Spc 106, Springfield, OR 97478, no later than 10am on the 7th day of September, 2026. The minimum bid shall be $10,763.86 which represents an opening bid by Golden Oaks MHP and which any winning bidder must match or exceed. Upon confirmation of the winning bid, the purchaser must promptly tender full payment in secured funds, only; money order, wire transfer, or cashiers' check and promptly remove the dwelling from the manufactured home park unless a storage agreement can be promptly negotiated between the successful bidder and the Park. Future owner occupancy of the dwelling onsite would require successful application for tenancy, screening, and entry into a written rental agreement, none of which will be considered until after the sale is complete. This auction may be cancelled at any time prior to the start of bidding without notice. Please contact Kara Hannigan, Property Manager for more information and/or questions at 541-747-1123.

SAVAGE Love

Turds

BY **DAN SAVAGE**

I married my beloved college boyfriend 20 years ago. I'll call him Alfred. I (mostly) still adore him. We can talk for hours about art, film and politics — and it's actually fun and productive when we disagree. We have a variegated and satisfying sex life. When you're married to Alfred, you tag along with him on the passionate interests he takes on every few years. Some of them fade away completely, but many linger in the background, often quite pleasingly: gourmet cooking, vinyl records, Scotch whisky. To this day, years away from his all-consuming initial infatuations, I can still occasionally be presented at dinner with an expertly crafted cassoulet and a dram of old Caperdonich with The Clash raging on the hi-fi speakers. (We'll not discuss the mountain of dirty dishes or the coffee-sloshed countertops.)

It's his latest obsession that's driving me insane. Alfred, you see, has been bitten by the "fibermaxxing" bug. Now, I can tolerate — and probably benefit from — joining him in consuming various chia puddings and pungent homemade fermentation projects (again, the guy can cook). I can deal with the lectures on "resistant fiber" and the benefits of something called butyrate. But increasingly, the man has become fixated on the triumphant result of his fibermaxxing exploits: his bowel movements. I'm happy to listen to him hash out the differences between mole poblano and mole negro; I have, at his behest, learned to distinguish between north and east Highland whiskies. But I do not want to hear him describe what takes place for him behind the bathroom door, Dan, and I flatly refuse to divulge my own such information, despite his pleas. This attitude drives him nuts!

Recently, out of the blue, in a state of joyous excitement, he urged me to follow him — he had something for me to see. When he led me into the bedroom, I thought he might have something fun in mind. But he led me through the bedroom and the bathroom, where he delightedly showed me the contents of the unflushed toilet. (He didn't seem to consider how I'd receive the stench.) I screamed. I have not recovered from this. I cannot see him in a sexual way when I think about this foul incident. He is not a toddler; I am not his mommy. There is now an icy chill between us. Do I wait for this phase, too, to pass? Or is this development a sign that the romantic part of our relationship has run its course.

— Tired Of This Shit

I was tired of Alfred's shit before I got to the end of your letter, TOTS, and, if I'm going to be perfectly frank, I was tired of your shit by the time I got to the end of your letter, too. My advice: You don't need my permission to tell your idiot husband you never want to see another one of his fibermaxxed turds ever again. As for your sex life: If you can't see your husband in a sexual way when you think about this foul incident, TOTS, try your best not to think about this foul incident. If you can't help yourself — if you can't not think about it — a few CBT sessions with a skilled provider might help.

P.S. Your husband's turds might be variegated — "varied in appearance or color; marked with patches or spots of different colors" — but unless you're wearing a cheetah fursuit to bed and/or you have an untreated sexually transmitted infection, TOTS, your sex life isn't variegated.

Got problems? Yes, you do! Email your question for the column to mailbox@savage.love! Or record your question for the Savage Lovecast at savage.love/askdan! Podcasts, columns and more at Savage.Love.

SUDOKU

Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once.

5	8						3	4
		3				5		
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2	7						5	1

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

6	7	8	2	4	9	3	1	5
9	1	3	5	6	7	8	2	4
2	4	5	8	1	3	6	7	9
1	5	4	9	2	6	7	8	3
8	9	2	3	7	4	1	5	6
3	6	7	1	5	8	4	9	2
7	8	6	4	9	5	2	3	1
4	2	9	7	3	1	5	6	8
5	3	1	6	8	2	9	4	7

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Jonesin' Crossword

BY **MATT JONES**

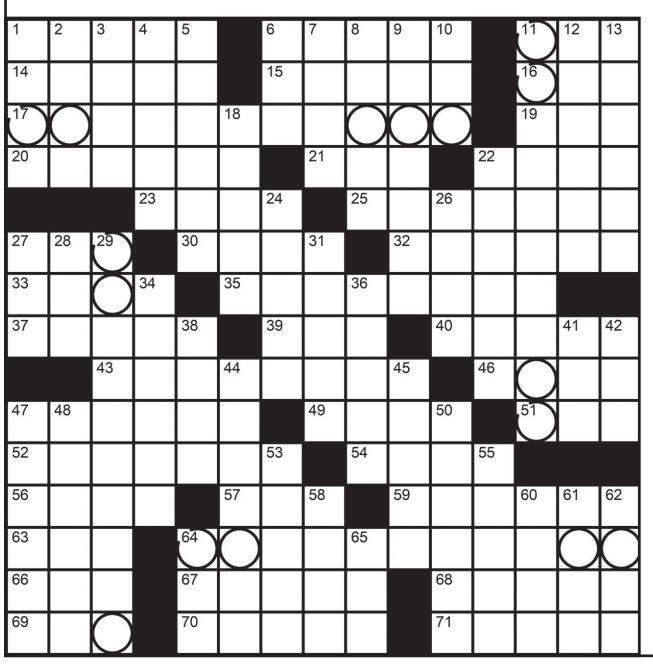
"Magazine Covers" — it's all on the outside.

Across

1. Insect stage
6. Ovo-___ vegetarian
11. Sea-___ (Washington airport)
14. Cookies in sleeves
15. Circumvent
16. Offline, initially
17. Like some turbines
19. Abbr. after Elizabeth Warren's name
20. Curious person
21. Big name on LinkedIn, perhaps
22. "Heaven Can Wait" actress Cannon
23. Nitric or boric
25. Contributing some chips
27. Thanksgiving tuber
30. Sped along
32. Carlos Alcaraz's sport
33. Org. that provides financial services to military families
35. Word often seen on kids' art supplies
37. "The Divine ___" (Bette Midler album)
39. Lines from Keats
40. Pop culture cliche
43. Chipmunk in the green shirt
46. Leave out
47. Gracefully slender
49. Sandwich alternative
51. Means justifier
52. "So soon?"
54. Mars, to Greeks
56. Like doilies
57. "___ genius!"
59. Teletubby spelled with only two letters (no, not that one)
63. ___ precaution
64. Caribbean area where pirates plundered
66. Tire filler
67. Coat material?
68. Old Treasury offering
69. 1400, in old Rome
70. Narrow street
71. Foul

Down

1. Valleys, mood-wise
2. "I Am Not My Hair" singer India.___
3. Philosopher Descartes
4. Moscow Mule ingredient
5. Appearance
6. "The Good Wife" field
7. Sans opposite
8. Jazz pianist Chick
9. Connect with, in a way
10. Like seven, but not six
11. Respectable earnings
12. Fashion's Giorgio
13. Loud, metallic sounds
18. Constellation with a belt
22. Robert of "Killers of the Flower Moon"
24. "The Mystery of Edwin ___" (Broadway musical based on an unfinished Dickens book)
26. Send a message
27. "Tasty!"
28. "___ was saying ..."
29. Credit company with a logo resembling a Venn diagram
31. Financially support
34. Actress Benson of "Pretty Little Liars"
36. ___ firma
38. Facebook owner
41. Wrestling win
42. Abbr. at an airport terminal
44. Complex word?
45. "Downton Abbey" extras
47. Arabic word meaning "peace"
48. Pickle brand with a stork mascot
50. Mate of a "proud" avian
53. Bygone Yahoo address option that was easily confused with the Google version
55. Ballroom dance from Brazil
58. Only daughter of Elizabeth II
60. Asian country with no coastline
61. "___ Misbehavin'"
62. Serkis of "Animal Farm"
64. Relaxation spot
65. Suffix after conform



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ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S

FREE WILL Astrology

WEEK OF AUGUST 27
BY **ROB BREZSNY**

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): On the sci-fi TV show *Stargate SG-1*, benevolent aliens, known as the Asgard, visit Earth to seek assistance from a secret U.S. government team. The ultra-advanced, hyper-intelligent Asgard have been unable to defeat their great nemesis, another alien species called the Replicators. Their hope is that their primitive partners, the humans, might stumble onto some basic, straightforward answer that their own sophisticated minds can't see. The gamble pays off. One of Earth's leading physicists, who's a naive amateur by Asgard standards, devises a rough, unsophisticated strategy that works wonderfully. Treat this as your parable, Aries: Put your faith in simple, uncluttered approaches and don't underestimate "beginner-level" fixes.

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): During one of my visits to the annual Burning Man festival in the Nevada desert, I encountered a prankster named Mother Very Superior. This nonbinary performer was dressed like a nun and wore a prominent chastity belt. Wielding a toy whip, they gently lashed me on my shoulders and prayed over me, saying, "I absolve you of all your sins. Therefore, you are now free to commit a raucous slew of new sins." I hope you get a similar dispensation, Taurus. To be fully available for the rollicking delights you're eligible for, it would be wise to reduce your karmic debt.

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Archaeologists studying ancient Roman shipwrecks found that sailors deliberately made their vessels heavier by stowing rocks in the hull. This reduced the profitability of their voyages, since it reduced their cargo capacity. On the other hand, it meant they wouldn't capsize during storms. An excellent trade-off! Let's use this scenario as a metaphor for your life right now, Gemini. I'm going to suggest that you will benefit from adding more ballast. Seemingly burdensome elements could keep you steady if conditions become unruly. Consider this: Not everything heavy is holding you back. Some of it's keeping you strong and stable.

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): During the Baroque era, Cancerian artist Artemisia Gentileschi painted powerful biblical and historical women who killed tyrants and delivered their people from violent domination. By channeling her creative passion into figures of righteous fury, she transformed her personal trauma into psychological power. I invite you to be inspired by Gentileschi as you reconfigure your own story in the coming weeks, Cancerian. Wouldn't it be fun and potent to transform the way you imagine both the past and future plot threads of your destiny?

LEO (*July 23-August 22*): In traditional sourdough baking, a small portion of fermented dough called a starter is saved and refreshed regularly. Some bakeries maintain the same lineage for years. The starter is a living culture of wild yeasts and lactic acid bacteria that feed on flour and water, producing acids and gases that leaven the dough and create bread with complex flavor, aroma and texture. Let's use this as a metaphor for your life, Leo. What long-running resource can you use to help create situations that will empower you to thrive in interesting ways during the coming months?

VIRGO (*August 23-Sept. 22*): The coming months could be a legendary turning point you will celebrate in the future: a pivotal time when you finally outsmart an old adversary and untangle a knotted inheritance, clearing the way to pursue your true calling with undiluted devotion. Or, on the other hand, the days ahead could be another round in the long saga of "almost": a decisive phase when you avoid a challenge that has been begging for your full brilliance, leaving your future without shining clues for how to further decode the ancient riddle. Which destiny will you accomplish, dear Virgo? Will you answer the call to adventure? Or ignore it until it fades away?

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Some of my most useful revelations arrive in the dark. Once, while hiking in a wooded canyon at dusk, I lost the trail and had to feel my way forward by the sound of the creek. In that blind descent, an insight about a personal riddle I'd been pondering for months appeared unbidden, as if it had been waiting in the shadows for me. As I followed the stream bank to safety, I celebrated by singing Leonard Cohen's song "Hallelujah." The moral of the story is that some lessons can be best learned by going down: into the body, into confusing feelings, into the rich compost of mysteries we may be hesitant to explore. How about you, Libra? In my professional opinion, your next pivotal breakthroughs are lurking in the fertile darkness rather than the brilliant heights. I hope you're brave enough to descend. The treasure is buried, as treasure often is.

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): In 1912, Scorpio meteorologist Alfred Wegener proposed the theory of continental drift. It's the idea that Earth's continents were once joined in a single supercontinent and have gradually drifted apart to their present positions over millions of years. Most scientists initially rejected his hypothesis because he couldn't explain how the movement occurred. He didn't live long enough to receive vindication, but decades later, his novel hypothesis was fully accepted. I'm pleased to report that your wait will be far shorter, Scorpio. Please keep your faith in the novel ideas and perceptions that others don't understand yet. The world's almost ready for your innovations.

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): There is a kind of lightning called a "sprite." It's a ghostly red discharge that blossoms high above thunderstorms. I suspect you may soon experience your own personal versions of this wonder. Fleeting insights may appear in unexpected places. Emotionally rich revelations could arrive out of nowhere. Because the moments could pass quickly, it will be crucial to notice them when they arrive. They could stimulate major shifts in your understanding. Keep your perceptive powers highly attuned.

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Fertility clinics store frozen human embryos. Numbering in the hundreds of thousands, they are suspended in a long, chilly pause, awaiting instructions from the people who created them. This accumulation of potential life on hold makes me think of you. If you would thaw and reclaim the neglected, untouched regions of your own imagination, you would become an even more formidable generator of focused creative power. The encouraging news is that the coming weeks will be an unusually favorable phase to expedite this process.

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Some earthquakes unleash energy in violent bursts, but others are incremental commotions that unfold gradually over days or even weeks. The way they reorganize the Earth's crust is kinder and gentler. Let's regard these slow quakes as an apt metaphor for the initially disruptive but ultimately constructive transformations underway in your beautiful life, Aquarius. You may not see spectacular evidence that change is percolating, but I guarantee that it is. Old structures are in a transitional phase of subtle disarray, creating conditions for new dispensations you can't imagine yet. My prediction: The rearrangement of your landscape will be healing.

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): The Sargasso Sea is the only sea on Earth without a land boundary. It's defined entirely by four strong Atlantic Ocean currents that circle it. Its edges aren't solid walls but slowly shifting rivers of water. I think this anomalous body of water is always a vivid symbol of your world, Pisces, and even more so these days. Your boundaries are currents, not coastlines. You hold your shape through movement, not through rigid definition. This is more challenging to maintain than solid borders, but it's also a great potential strength. Use it with aplomb!

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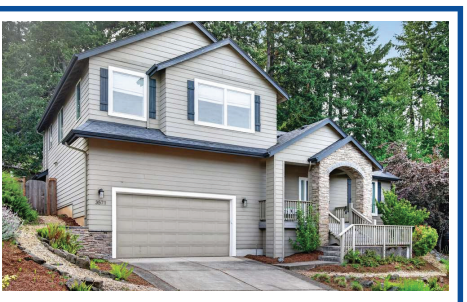

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